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Pope Francis, a cheerful reformer, dies aged 88

Agence France-Presse
VATICAN CITY

POPE FRANCIS (1936-2025)

Pope Francis, an energetic reformer who inspired widespread devotion from Catholics but riled traditionalists, died on Monday aged 88, just a day after greeting delighted worshippers after Easter Mass.

The death of the Argentine pontiff, leader of the Catholic Church since March 2013, came less than a month after having been released from hospital following a 38-day battle with double pneumonia.

Pope Francis died of a stroke, causing a coma and "irreversible" heart failure, according to his death certificate released by the Vatican.

"Dearest brothers and sisters, it is with deep sorrow that I must announce the death of our Holy Father Francis," said Cardinal Kevin Farrell in the statement published by the Vatican on its Telegram channel. "The Bishop of Rome, Francis, returned to the home of the Father. His entire life was dedicated to the service of the Lord and His church," said the statement.

A football-loving former Archbishop of Buenos Aires who was often happiest among his flock, Pope Francis sought to forge a more open and compassionate Church.

Pope Francis, whose real name was Jorge Bergoglio, was the first Jesuit to lead the world's almost 1.4 billion Catholics and also the first Pope from the Americas.

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Modi, Vance see progress in bilateral trade talks

PM reviews ties with U.S. Vice-President, hosts his family for dinner; no mention of tariff and visa revocation issues in PMO statement; no new agreements announced as earlier expected

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Welcoming "significant progress" in talks for a Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA), Prime Minister Narendra Modi and U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance met in Delhi on Monday, and reviewed plans for India-U.S. cooperation, the Prime Minister's Office (PMO) said.

Mr. Vance's office said the two leaders "formally announced the finalisation of the Terms of Reference for the negotiations", even as Indian and U.S. officials were set to begin another round of BTA talks in Washington this week.

Mr. Modi met with Mr. Vance along with senior officials from both sides, before hosting Mr. Vance, his wife, Usha Chilukuri Vance, and their children for dinner at his residence.

U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance and family with Prime Minister Narendra Modi at his residence in New Delhi on Monday. REUTERS

However, they did not launch the TRUST Technology Partnership as had been earlier expected.

Trump's visit

Mr. Modi said he looked forward to U.S. President Donald Trump's visit to India "later this year", when India will host the U.S.-India-Japan-Australia Quad Summit.

"The BTA is expected to create new opportunities of growth for workers, farmers, and entrepreneurs in both countries," Mr. Vance's office said, calling the agreement an "opportunity to negotiate a new and modern trade agreement" to increase "bilateral trade and supply-chain integration".

"[The leaders] welcomed the significant progress in the negotiations for a mutually beneficial India-U.S. Bilateral Trade Agreement focused on the welfare of the people of the two countries," the PMO said in its statement. The statement, however, made no mention on whether the leaders discussed more testy issues, including U.S. tariffs and a crackdown on student visas by the Trump administration which may force many Indians to return without completing their studies.

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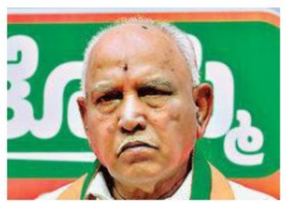

BSY plea referred to larger Bench

NEW DELHI
The Supreme Court on Monday referred to a larger Bench a special leave petition filed by former Chief Minister and BJP leader B.S. Yediyurappa challenging the revival of a corruption case against him.

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CM pats govt. employees

BENGALURU
Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said Karnataka has become a progressive State and is second in GST collection in the country, largely owing to the government employees' commitment to discharging their duties efficiently.

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Uphill task

Lost road: Vehicles stuck in the debris from flash floods and landslips along a mountain road in Ramban district of J&K on Monday. The Jammu-Srinagar National Highway remains closed after debris blocked the route at nearly a dozen places. IMRAN NISSAR (REPORT ON PAGE 12)

Wife held for former DGP's murder

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A day after the murder of former Karnataka police chief Om Prakash, HSR Layout police arrested Pallavi, his wife, on Monday .

However, the FIR in the case, registered based on a complaint by Om Prakash's son Karthikesh, 38, lists both his mother, Pallavi, and his sister, Kriti, as suspects. They have been booked under Section 103 of Bharatiya Nyay Sanhita, 2023, for murder.

While Pallavi has been arrested, as there was substantial evidence against her, police are still probing the role of Kriti, if any, and have not arrested her yet.

Kriti was also detained on Monday and questioned. On Monday, Pallavi was taken to the scene of the crime and a mahazar was conducted and later produced before a magistrate and remanded into judicial custody. The probe into the case has been handed over to the Central Crime Branch (CCB).

Former DGP Om Prakash with his wife.

Preliminary investigations suggest that Om Prakash got into an argument with Pallavi during lunch at their home in HSR Layout.

The argument escalated and resulted in his murder. A kitchen knife was used to stab him multiple times, and a glass bottle was broken on him.

Pallavi reportedly called her friend, the wife of another retired IPS officer, and claimed to have "finally killed the monster". She, in turn, alerted the police. Om Prakash's daughter, Kriti, was in the house when the incident took place.

In his complaint, Karthikesh alleged that both his mother and sister suffer from depression and would quarrel with his father every day. He suspects that both may have killed his father.

Karthikesh also claimed that for the past one week, Om Prakash had been staying at his sister Sarita Kumari's house, as Pallavi had been issuing him death threats. On April 18, Kriti went to her aunt's house and forced her father to return; he said.

On April 20 afternoon, he was away at Domlur on work when his neighbour informed him of his father's murder. Upon arriving at the house, he saw knives and a broken bottle on the floor. His father was dead and the police were at the house, he stated.

Meanwhile, Om Prakash's funeral was held at the Wilson Garden electric crematorium on Monday.

Contrary to expectations, mango yield drops again due to harsh weather

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

In a disappointing development, the mango yield in Karnataka has gone down this year as well, owing to the vagaries of weather. While the technical expert committee had earlier predicted the yield to be around 12 lakh to 14 lakh metric tonnes, now the prediction has come down to around 8 lakh to 10 lakh metric tonnes.

Mangoes, which require chilly weather with dew during the flowering phase, faced the opposite this year. "The flowering was not good in January this year because of the harsh temperature of around 33 to 34 degrees Celsius in the fields. Due to this, the fruit did not set properly, while new shoots also came out. When shoots come out, it leads to food competition between fruit and vegetative growth," C.G. Nagaraju, managing director, Karnataka State Mango Development and Marketing Corporation (KSMDMC), told *The Hindu*.

Mangoes, which require chilly weather with dew during the flowering phase, faced the opposite this year. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

While in the previous year, pest infestation was a big problem, the Mango Board claims that this year, it has reduced.

"The tree hoppers, which generally pose a big problem, were not there much this time. The diseases are less prevalent as we had issued technical guidelines earlier, and farmers had taken prophylactic measures. Thus, we thought it would be an on year, but due to high temperature, it became an off year again," Mr. Nagaraju added.

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Call centre employee arrested for assaulting an IAF officer in a road rage incident

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Baiyappanahalli police on Monday arrested a call centre employee for allegedly assaulting an IAF officer in a road rage incident in C.V. Raman Nagar earlier in the day.

This came after a video message by the IAF officer, Shiladitya Bose, in which he claimed to have been assaulted unprovoked in Bengaluru, went viral on social media, sparking a language debate as well.

However, footage from CCTV cameras that also found their way to social media Tuesday evening showed that Mr. Bose also assaulted the now-arrested Vikas Kumar.

CCTV footage of a road rage incident in Bengaluru on Tuesday.

They were engaged in a fistfight on the road, and both were injured.

D. Devaraja, Deputy Commissioner of Police (East), Bengaluru City Police, clarified that their probe had revealed that it was a case of road rage and there was no language angle involved in the incident as claimed by Mr. Bose.

Earlier, in his video message, Mr. Bose said his wife, posted with DRDO, was dropping him at the airport, to fly to Kolkata to attend to a medical emergency involving his father, from DRDO Colony in Bengaluru, when the alleged incident took place.

He said a biker came to the right side and blocked them, and started hurling abuses in Kannada "unprovoked".

"As I got down from the car, even before I could realise what happened, he attacked me with a key on my face and I started bleeding. He later attacked me with a stone on my head," he said.

He further expressed his dismay that the locals who gathered around did not come to their help, and only a few senior citizens tried to intervene. He said he was now worried for the safety of his wife and child staying in Bengaluru.

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EMMANUAL YOGINI

SKY climbs back to his show-stopping best at the Wankhede

Suryakumar's recent form in T20s had been a tad below his stratospheric levels. But against Chennai Super Kings on Sunday, the ace batter, who leads India in the shortest version, helped Mumbai Indians make light work of a target of 177 in the company of Rohit with an exhibition of sweep shots that nullified the visitor's spinners

Vivek Krishnan

At the Wankhede on Sunday night, the finish came with a flourish. With M.S. Dhoni, the man who immortalised picture-perfect climaxes at this venue with *that* shot over long-on on the night of the 2011 ODI World Cup final, stationed behind the stumps, Suryakumar Yadav dispatched Matheesha Pathirana for two consecutive sixes to complete a nine-wicket trouncing of Chennai Super Kings inside 16 overs.

Pathirana, armed with searing pace and a slingy action, had erred a trifle with his execution, dishing out deliveries that were a few inches short of the blockhole. It was enough for the 34-year-old, standing deep in his crease with his front leg out of the way, to exercise a flamboyant swing of the bat and clear the extra-cover and long-off boundaries with a touch of trademark swagger.

He finished unbeaten on 68 off 30 deliveries, having forged an 114-run unbroken partnership with Rohit Sharma (76 n.o., 45b, 4x4, 6x6) to deliver a third victory on the trot for Mumbai Indians. For Rohit to register a significant score after accruing merely 82 runs in his first six outings is understandably headline-grabbing – there's also the selection of India's squad for the Test tour of England looming – but if MI is to build on this run and stake a claim for the playoffs, it is arguably Suryakumar returning to his vintage best that is even more substantial.

To say that Suryakumar, who has been retained in Grade-B of BCCI's annual player contracts for 2024-25, wasn't at the pinnacle of his powers in previous matches may seem strange when he is third on the list of highest run-getters this season – his 333 runs in eight games have come at an average of 55.5 and a strike rate of 162.43. But before his sublime display on Sunday, there is some validity to the claim that the man from Mumbai hadn't set the stage on fire in this edition to the extent we have come to expect. It is a reflection of the stratospheric benchmark that SKY, a moniker given to him by current India head coach Gautam Gambhir during their erstwhile association with Kolkata Knight Riders, has set by virtue of his game-changing exploits over the past few years.

Slight dip

That he was operating a notch or two below his usual capacity was most evident in MI's defeat to Royal Challengers Bengaluru at the Wankhede a fortnight ago. Chasing 222 for victory on a batting belter, he was visibly out of sorts, repeatedly mistiming shots and offering chances that the RCB fielders spurned, and laboured his way to a 26-ball 28. The tame effort led to MI falling well behind the asking rate and eventually losing by 12 runs despite the pyrotechnics of Tilak Varma and Hardik Pandya in the late overs.

In the months leading up to this IPL season, Suryakumar's run-scoring graph for India witnessed a slight dip.

Since becoming captain of India's T20I set-up in July 2024, following the exit of Rohit from the shortest format after the euphoric T20 World Cup triumph (Suryakumar, of course, played a big part with a spectacular catch in the final over of the final), the ace batter has just collected 258 runs in 14 innings at 18.42. Two ducks and five other scores in single digits have been added to his name in this period. Furthermore, his highest score is 21 in his last eight innings. In ICC's T20I batting rankings, for what it's worth, he has slipped from first to fifth.

Over the course of a long career, these troughs are bound to be encountered. But as was apparent in his knock against CSK, his supreme confidence and ultra-aggressive batting approach, which are among his biggest virtues, are very much intact.

Sure, Suryakumar walked into a pleasant situation on Sunday. By the time he took guard in the seventh over, Rohit and Ryan Rickelton had established a strong base with a quick-fire opening stand of 63 runs.

But having said that, Ravindra Jadeja had just struck in his opening over. Left-arm wrist-spinner Noor Ahmad, second on the wicket-taking charts this season with 12 scalps before the game, had all four overs up his sleeve. And R. Ashwin, back into the mix as an Impact Player on account of the assistance that MI spinners Mitchell Santner and Will Jacks drew during CSK's innings, had delivered two frugal overs for eight runs. It was an opportunity, although remote at that, for CSK's tweakers to show their pedigree in what has been a wretched campaign.

Attacking the spinners

But Suryakumar dashed the hopes of the men in yellow in the blink of an eye. Possessing a range of powerful sweep shots at his disposal, allowing him to access the region from fine leg to deep mid wicket as per his convenience,

EMMANUAL YOGINI

Suryakumar did not only limit the threat of the three spinners but went after each of them with gleeful relish. In contrast to Santner and Jacks, who gave away just 18 runs in four overs of orthodox spin, CSK's slower bowlers were hammered for 89 runs in 10 overs.

During the post-match media formalities, coach Mahela Jayawardene said that Suryakumar was sent out at No. 3 given his proficiency against spin. To know how much he is rated on this front, it is pertinent to note that MI overlooked Tilak Varma for the job of not allowing the Super Kings spinners to settle into a stifling line and length. Never mind that Tilak had two things going in his favour: Jadeja, CSK's most accurate spinner, would be turning the ball into him, and his presence would ensure the continuation of a left-right batting combination.

"We knew CSK was going to bowl a lot of spin. So we took the decision to send SKY," Jayawardene stated.

Sweeping exhibition

With just a subtle change in his forward stride, he was able to manoeuvre the ball into the vacant pockets on the leg side with surgical precision.

There were sweeps over short fine leg. Sweeps in front of square. Sweeps all along the ground. Sweeps that took the aerial route and sailed beyond the boundary ropes. "There is nobody who plays the sweep shot better," former Australia captain Michael Clarke, in a spontaneous reaction to the mayhem, exclaimed on commentary.

Beaming an impish smile and basking in the glow of victory, Suryakumar elaborated on his mastery of the shot. "I have grown up on the maidans of Mumbai.

When you play a lot of local cricket in Mumbai, you play a lot of cricket on red soil. You have got to come up with something like that. That's where it has come from. When you come here, you know what to do," he explained in a chat on television.

And when the bowler was willing to offer a hint of flight, like Jadeja did off the third ball of the ninth over, Suryakumar unleashed inside-out drives that took your breath away. It allowed Rohit, often the aggressor in a partnership, to take a small step back and stay put right through to the end.

"When SKY got into that groove, Ro probably took a back-seat, which was great," Jayawardene enthused.

"We wanted the partnership to build. These two guys know each other pretty well. They handled the situation really well. I can't pick one of them, because both were outstanding today."

Before the contest, he had revealed in a chat with the broadcasters that he rewards himself with a cake baked by his wife whenever he does well with the bat. Having treated the Wankhede faithful to his show-stopping best, MI will hope he feasts on many more cakes for the remainder of this campaign.

THE GIST

- In the months leading up to this IPL season, Suryakumar's run-scoring graph for India witnessed a slight dip
- But as was apparent in his knock against CSK, his supreme confidence and ultra-aggressive batting approach, which are among his biggest virtues, are very much intact
- It is pertinent to note that MI overlooked Tilak Varma for the job of not allowing the Super Kings spinners to settle into a stifling line and length

NARAYANA'S LANDMARK VICTORY IN JEE MAIN 2025

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AIR 541 — G SASANKA MOULI — APP NO: 250310005441
AIR 549 — GURURATNA UPADHYAY — APP NO: 250310293025
AIR 551 — JIYA BANSAL — APP NO: 250310212605
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AIR 777 — MOLAKALA JASWANTH REDDY — APP NO: 250310234900
AIR 786 — SAKETH VEMPATI — APP NO: 250310334538
AIR 787 — VEDIKA N GAONKAR — APP NO: 250310025354
AIR 795 — ARYAN A — APP NO: 250310002133
AIR 797 — SANIDHYA CHOUHAN — APP NO: 250310337878
AIR 799 — GRANDHI JASWANTH SAI — APP NO: 250310504698
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AIR 804 — LACHAGARI SRINITH REDDY — APP NO: 250310304946
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TOTAL NO. OF STUDENTS SELECTED FOR JEE ADVANCED 22315

Disclaimer: Any inadvertent error published in this advertisement could be brought to our notice

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J BG-BGE

The Hindu Education Plus Career Counselling to begin in city on April 26

The schedule

PLACE	DATE	VENUE	ADDRESS
Bengaluru South	26-04-2025	NMKRV Mangala Mantapa Auditorium	22nd Cross, Jayanagar 3rd Block, Bengaluru
Hubballi	26-04-2025	KLE. Society's Biotechnology Auditorium	BVB. College of Engineering & Technology Campus, Vidyanagar, Hubballi
Davangere	27-04-2025	Bapuji B School (MBA College)	Lakeview Campus, S.S. Layout, Shamanur Road, Davangere
Mysuru	03-05-2025	Sahukar Chennaiah Auditorium	Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering, P.B. No. 206, Gokulam III Stage, Mysuru
Vijayapura	06-05-2025	BLDECET	BLDEA's V.P. Dr. P.G. Halakatti College of Engineering and Technology, Ashram Road, Adarsh Nagar, Vijayapura
Bengaluru Central	10-05-2025	Sri Jagadguru Renukacharya College of Science, Arts and Commerce	9, Racecourse Road, Ananda Rao Circle, Bengaluru
Mangaluru	17-05-2025	Sri Sudheendra Auditorium	Canara High School campus, Kodiabail, Mangaluru
Bidar	17-05-2025	Sri Poojya Channa Basava Pattadevaru Rang Mandir, near district stadium, Bidar	Sri Poojya Channa Basava Pattadevaru Rang Mandir, near district stadium, Bidar
Tumakuru	18-05-2025	Birla Auditorium	Siddaganga Institute of Technology , Tumakuru
Kalaburagi	18-05-2025	Poojya Doddappa Appa Sabha Bhavan	Poojya Doddappa Appa Sabha Bhavan, Sharana Basava University, Kalaburagi

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 23rd edition of The Hindu Education Plus Career Counselling, which will be held across Karnataka, will begin on April 26 at the NMKRV Managala Mantapa Auditorium at Jayanagar in Bengaluru. The event, organised by *The Hindu*, will cover 10 locations across nine cities between April 26 and May 18.

Informed decisions

The landmark event continues its legacy of guiding students and parents in making well informed academic and career decisions.

Career guidance

Designed as a one-stop platform for academic and career counselling, it brings together well-known educationists, career experts, and top institutions to provide personalised guidance on UPSC exam preparation, NEET, and CET counselling conducted by Karnataka Examinations Authority (KEA) officials and career opportunities in diverse fields, including arts, science, commerce, law, management, engineering, medicine, CA, cost management, fashion designing, performing arts, animation, journalism, architecture and more.

If the students are either exploring conventional paths or emerging career trends, this forum will offer the clarity, direction, and expert advice they need.

The registration for each event will be held between 8.30 a.m. and 9.30 a.m., while the main programme will be held from 9.30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Entry free

The entry will be free for all students and parents. Each participating student will receive a complimentary copy of *The Hindu's Career Counselling Handbook* – a comprehensive resource featuring over 30 articles authored by distinguished academicians and industry professionals.

This exclusive handbook aligns with contemporary academic trends and evolving career landscapes.

The sponsors of The Hindu Education Plus Career Counselling are:

Platinum sponsor: The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India

Gold sponsors: R.V. University, Bengaluru, and Chanakya University, Bengaluru.

Silver sponsors: GSSS School of Architecture for Women, Mysuru; JSS Academy of Higher Education & Research, Mysuru; JSS Science & Technology University, Mysuru; Karnataka State Open University, Mysuru; Malnad College of Engineering, Hassan; Vidyavardhaka College of Engineering, Mysuru; Sir M. Visvesvaraya Institute of Technology, Bengaluru; Soundarya Group of Institutions, Bengaluru; Adichunchanagiri University; The Christ (Deemed to be University); CMR University; Indian Institute of Fashion Technology.

Associate sponsors: Khaja Bandanawaz University, Kalaburagi; SDM Educational Society (R), Ujire; The Institute of Cost Accountants of India; Karnataka Bank; Shaheen Group of Institutions, Bidar; Bapuji Educational Association (Regd), Davangere; Hyderabad Karnataka Education Society, Kalaburagi.

Regional sponsor: MVJ College of Engineering, Bengaluru.

Candy partner: Naturo. Those who wish to register for the event use this link: https://newsth.live/CET2025ED

For more information, call: 9448160126 / 9448871815.

Pvt. schools warned against holding tests and interviews for admissions

Circular says 50% seats should be mandatorily reserved for girls in all co-educational schools

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL), which has allowed private aided and unaided schools to conduct admission processes for students in April for 2025-26, has strictly prohibited holding tests or interviews for students and parents before admission.

The Commissioner of Public Instruction has warned, in a circular, that action will be taken against schools of all boards that violate the rules under Section 13 (2) (b) of the Right to Education Act, 2009 (RTE). The circular states that schools that follow the Central Board Secondary Education (CBSE) or the Indian Certificate of Secondary of Education (ICSE) syllabus must conduct admissions as per the bylaws/rules of their respective boards, but also abide by the directions/guidelines/circulars issued by the respective State governments, the department has warned. "Despite the existing rules banning tests and interviews of parents and children for school admissions, many private schools are conducting them. Children who fail the test do not get admission. This is also a violation of children's rights. The government should take strict action against such schools," urged N.S. Shashidhar, a parent from Bengaluru.

The circular said the admission process in private pre-primary schools, primary, and high schools should be open and transparent. FILE PHOTO

> Despite the ban, many private schools are conducting tests and interviews. Children who fail the test do not get admission. This is also a violation of children's rights.
>
> **N.S. SHASHIDHAR**
> A parent from Bengaluru

The circular noted that the admission process in private pre-primary schools, primary, and high schools should be open and transparent. The schedule for admission, seat availability, class-wise allocation, and fee information should be published on the notice board.

The circular further said that 50% seats should be mandatorily reserved for girls in all co-educational schools, irrespective of the boards they are affiliated with.

The order states that if 50% of girls are not enrolled, the remaining seats should be given to boys as per the reservation rule.

On the issue of fees, it said that unaided schools are not allowed to charge capitation fees under the RTE Act, 2009.

"Therefore, school managements should publish the fee amount fixed in their schools for the information of the public on the notice board, Students Achievement Tracking System (SATS), school website, and in the school prospectus."

M.S. Ramaiah Memorial Lecture held

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Marking the 103rd birth anniversary of Dr. M.S. Ramaiah, the Ramaiah Institute of Technology hosted the Dr. M.S. Ramaiah Memorial Lecture on Monday.

Academicians and members of the Gokula Education Foundation (GEF) took part in the event to honour the founder's contributions to education and national development.

V. Narayanan, Secretary, Department of Space, and Chairman, ISRO, delivered the memorial lecture titled "Indian Space Programme - Pride of the Nation: Past Success, Present Efforts and Future Endeavours." He discussed the Indian space programme and key milestones such as the Chandrayaan missions, and future goals focused on innovation, sustainability, and collaboration.

M.R. Jayaram, chairman of GEF (Medical) and chancellor of RUAS, spoke on the progress since independence and the role of the Ramaiah institutions.

Gold was being smuggled to India after declaring it to be taken to Geneva or Bangkok, DRI tells HC

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Actor Harshavardini Ranya Rao and Tarun Konduru Raju were made use of to declare gold at Dubai airport claiming that it was being taken to Geneva or Bangkok, by simultaneously booking tickets to these destinations.

They then smuggled the gold to India, instead of travelling to either Geneva or Bangkok, Directorate of Revenue Intelligence (DRI) informed the High Court on Monday.

Interestingly, the duo did not cancel the tickets booked to either Geneva or Bangkok on the same dates, even after travelling to India with the gold bars, the DRI claimed.

The DRI also told the court that there are no restrictions like in India to carry gold to either Geneva or Bangkok.

These submissions were made before S. Vishwajith Shetty, who is hearing the petitions filed by Ms. Ranya and Mr. Tarun, who is a U.S. citizen and resident of Hyderabad, seeking bail in the gold smuggling case.

Before her marriage, Ms. Ranya used to book tickets for both by using a credit card, and after the marriage, she was depositing cash into his account for booking tickets to travel to and fro Dubai, the Directorate of Revenue Intelligence said.

On the protocol facility given to Ms. Ranya at the airport, the DRI told the court that a statement of a police constable indicates that it was given on the instruction of DGP Ramachandra Rao, who is none other than the stepfather of Ms. Ranya.

As arguments remained inconclusive, the court adjourned further hearing till April 23.

BIS hosts Manak Samvad

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS), Bengaluru branch, organised a Manak Samvad programme to empower 42 newly licensed stakeholders from diverse sectors on Monday.

The event aimed to enhance awareness and compliance with BIS certification processes and quality standards. Praveen Khanna, Deputy Director General (South), was the chief guest.

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the General Public that my Client intends to purchase the below mentioned Schedule Property and accordingly my Client has entered into Agreement of Sale from its Owners namely **Mrs. VIOLET KACHYAP,** Aged about 74 years, W/o Late. V.K. Kachyap, residing at No.720, Hara Vijaya Heights, Pipe Line Road, VISL Layout, Near Nice Road, Kanakapura Road Junction, Thalaghattapura, Banashankari 6th Stage, Bengaluru-560109 and **Mrs. SAPNA PAUL,** Aged about 50 years, W/o Dr. Maneesh Paul, Residing at No. 410, Hara Vijaya Heights, Pipe Line Road, VISL Layout, Near Nice Road, Kanakapura Road Junction, Thalaghattapura, Banashankari 6th Stage, Bengaluru-560109 who represent to my client that they are the absolute Owners of the Schedule Property having acquired the same by way of inheritance after the death of Sri. V.K Kachyap, S/o Sri. I.P. Kachyap. i.e. land immovable residential property bearing **No.171** M.I.G., developed by the Karnataka Housing Board, situated at Extension : Yelahanka Satellite Town I Phase, Bengaluru, presently within the limits of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP for short) **BBMP Khatha No. 185/1066/173/171 & New Electronic Property Identification Number (EPID for short) 1042535157**, measuring East to West 70 feet and North to South 45 feet in all measuring 3150 Square feet or 292.64 Square Meters, together with residential building constructed there on consisting of ground floor and first floor, totally measuring **3609.997** Sq.ft and hereinafter referred to as **Schedule property**.

Anyone having any manner of right, title interest or claim over the same or objecting to the sale, may lodge their objections/claims together with the documents evidencing the same, with the undersigned within 10 days of the publication of this notice; failing which it will be deemed that the property is free from claims/encumbrances whatsoever and my clients will proceed with the purchase of the same.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the immovable residential property bearing **No.171** M.I.G., developed by the Karnataka Housing Board, situated at Extension : Yelahanka Satellite Town I Phase, Bengaluru, presently within the limits of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, **BBMP Khatha No. 185/1066/173/171 & New EPID No.1042535157**, measuring East to West 70 feet and North to South 45 feet in all measuring 3150 Square feet or 292.64 Square Meters, together with residential building constructed there on consisting of ground floor and first floor, totally measuring **3609.997** Sq.ft or 335.379 Sq.Mtrs., with all basic amenities and bounded on:- East by : Site No. 198, West by : Road, North by : Site No. 170, South by : Site No. 172.

Sd/- SRI. LAKSHMANA .M
M/s. SARALA LAW ASSOCIATES, Advocates
Office at "Justice Point", No.168, 3rd Floor, Pooja Complex, 1st Cross, Kilari Road, Bangalore-560 053.

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Dated 17th April 2025

ANNOUNCEMENT inviting proposals for funding from Start-ups, MSMEs and Individual Innovators under S&T PRISM Program of Ministry of Mines (PRISM 4.0)

Proposals invited from Startups, MSMEs and Individual Innovators for up to 2 years duration, for funding under "Promotion of Research and Innovation in Startups and MSMEs in Mining, Mineral Processing, Metallurgy and Recycling Sector (S&T-PRISM)" under Science and Technology Program of Ministry of Mines so as to enable them to graduate to a level where they will be able to raise investments from angel/Venture Capitalist or they will reach a position to seek loans from commercial banks/financial institutions. Funding support will be in the form of a grant of up to ₹ 50 lakhs for Startup, ₹ 1 Cr. for MSME and grant up to ₹ 2 Cr. may be considered for technology products.

The detailed advertisement with problem statements and guidelines may be seen at SATYABHAMA Portal (research.mines.gov.in) of Ministry of Mines and JNARDDC's website (**https://jnarddc.gov.in/Startup-India.aspx**).

Online proposals must be submitted along with all necessary enclosures in the portal - **https://research.mines.gov.in/SNTPRISM/SNT_type.aspx**.

Last date of submission of proposals is **31.05.2025**.

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT the land owners as mentioned underneath have represented that they are the owners of the properties to the extent as mentioned. It is brought to the Notice of the general public that my client has negotiated and agreed to purchase the schedule properties from the said land owners. All person/ persons claiming or having any claim against or to the schedule properties or any part thereof by way of inheritance. Mortgage, sale, conveyance, MOU, agreement to sell, transfer, lease deed, tenancy, license, lien, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, exchange, possession, adverse possession or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to submit the same in writing along with documentary proof to the undersigned **within 7 days** from the date of publication hereof failing which my client shall proceed to register the sale deeds without any reference to such claim and the same, if any, will be considered as waived.

Sl. No.	Village	Name of Land Owners	Sy. No.	Extent
1	Shetterhalli Village, Kasaba Hobli, Devanahalli Taluk, Bengaluru Rural	**B M Paramesh** Son of B K Munihanume Gowda	5/1	2 A 15 Guntas
2			5/4	1 Acre 15 Guntas

Dated this 21st Day of April 2025.

Address for Correspondence:
SHANTH KUMAR S P, Advocate
EN 175, Lake View Road, Byrasandra C V Raman Nagar, Bengaluru-560 093

Government of Jharkhand
Urban Development and Housing Department
Dhanbad Municipal Corporation, Dhanbad

e-Procurement Tender Notice No. DMC/02/2025-26
NIT No.- DMC/02/2025-26 Date :- 21.04.2025

1.	Name of the work	**Construction of FSTP Plant under DMC, Dhanbad**
2.	Estimated Cost (Rs.)	Rs. **4,23,18,743.00**
3.	Tender Fee and Bid Security	Tender document fee: - INR 10,000/- (Ten Thousand Only) Non-Refundable. Bid Security: Rs **4,23,187.00** (Rupees Four Lakh Twenty Three Thousand One Hundred Eighty Seven Only).
4.	Time of Completion	365 Days
5.	Date / Time of Publication of Tender on Website	23.04.2025 at 03:00 PM
6.	Date of Pre-bid meeting	28 04.2025 at 03:00 PM in DMC, Mada Building, Luby Circular Road, Dhanbad.
7.	Start Date of Submission of Bids	29.04.2025 at 03:00 PM
8.	Last Date / Time for receipt of bids Online	16.05.2025 (On line) till 03:00 PM
9.	Date and Time of Technical Bid Opening Online.	17.05.2025 (On line) from 03:00 PM
10.	Name & address of office Inviting tender	Chief Executive Officer, Dhanbad Municipal corporation,Dhanbad.
11.	Helpline number of e-Procurement cell	**8986892064**
12.	e-mail id	**dhanbadmunicipalcorporationadm@gmail.com**

NOTE:- (i) Only e-Tenders will be accepted. Further details can be seen on website http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in.
(ii) Contractor should be registered in Class (I) First class as per NIT
(iii) Estimated Cost / Quantity May Vary
(iv) Any Change/Information can be seen on Website on http://www.jharkhandtenders.gov.in

S/d-
Executive Engineer,
Dhanbad Municipal Corporation, Dhanbad
PR.NO.350718 Urban Development and Housing(25-26):D

OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER
PLANNING AND INVESTIGATION DIVISION
ROAD CONSTRUCTION
DEPARTMENT (RCD),RANCHI
NirupanBhawan, 3rdFloor,Room No. 401
,56-Set,Doranda,Ranchi-834002

e-Procurement (Short Tender Notice)
Letter of Invitation (LOI) No.-02/2025-26 2nd Call
e-Tender Ref No:–RCD/PID/RANCHI/02/2025-26
Date:-17.04.2025

1	**Name Of Work**	**Consultancy Services for Preparation of Traffic Study & Feasibility Study Report for Construction of Ring road at Tatanagar Railway station chowk to Tata Hata main road under East Singhbhum Distict in the State of Jharkhand.*Only Empanelled consultant with RCD under category-I vide letter No. 3063(S) WE Dated 22.08.2022 are allowed to bid.**
2	**Tentative Length**	To be determined by Consultant
3	**Period of Completion of Work**	30 Days
4	**Cost of Tender documents& Earnest Money Deposit**	Cost of tender documents is Rs. 5000/-(Non-Refundable) EMD:- The quotationers have to deposit a fixed amount of Rs 20000.00 (Twenty thousand only) as Earnest Money. **As per the Departmental Letter no.-4652(S) dated 06.10.2023, cost of tender document and Earnest Money Deposit will be received in online mode only through e-procurement portal (http://jharkhandtenders.gov.in) by internet banking/NEFT/RTGS facility as per Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) issued by Information Technology & e-Governance Department, Government of Jharkhand vide letter no- 120 dated 03.10.2023.**
5	**Mode of Bid Submission**	e-tendering(https://jharkhandtenders.gov.in/)
6	**Date/Time of Publication of Tender on Website**	24.04.2025,10:30 AM
7	**Online Last Date/Time of Bid Submission**	07.05.2025, 12:00 NOON
8	**Date and Time of Bid opening**	08.05.2025, 12:30 PM
9	**Bid validity**	120 days
10	**Designation and Contact no. of Tender inviting Officer**	Executive Engineer, Planning and Investigation Division, RCD, Ranchi, Mob No.-9471650883
11	**Advertisement no.**	PR 349169 ROAD (2425) D

Note:- Only e-Tender shall be accepted. Further details can be seen on e-procurement portal (https://jharkhandtenders. gov.in/).

Executive Engineer,
Planning & Investigation Division,
PR 350727 (Road)25-26*D Road Construction Department, Ranchi.

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

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No.74, 7th cross, Malleswaram, Bangalore-560003
Ph:080-23366736, E-mail:malles@bankofbaroda.com

SALE NOTICE FOR SALE OF IMMOVABLE PROPERTY "APPENDIX-IV-A[See proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6)]

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 6 (2) & 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, possession of which has been taken by the Authorized Officer of Bank of Baroda, The Secured Creditor, will be sold on **"As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is"** for recovery of below mentioned account. The details of Borrower/s/Guarantor/s/Secured Asset/s/Dues/Reserve Price/e-Auction date & Time, EMD and Bid Increase Amount are mentioned below –

Sl. No.	Name & address of Borrower/s, Mortgagor/s and Guarantor/ s	Description of the Immovable Property	Total Dues	Date & Time of E-Auction	Reserve Price, EMD Bid Increase Amount & Last date of EMD Amount	Status of Possession (Constructive / Physical)	Property Inspection Date & Time
1	**Sri Srisailam Dadiga,** S/o Sri Danaiah Dadiga, No.4/161, Lemoor, K. V Rangareddy, Kandukar, Hyderabad-501359 **(Borrower)**	Residential Flat no 702 ,7th Floor, Pristine Vara, No 123, situated at infantry Road, vasanthnagar, Bengaluru.	**Rs.7,07,17,724.31** (Rupees Seven Crore Seven Lakhs Seventeen Thousand Seven Hundred Twenty Four and Paise Thirty One Only) Inclusive of interest along with further interest thereon.	**22.05.2025 Time of 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm**	**Reserve Price Rs.7,96,00,000/- EMD: Rs.79,60,000/- Bid Increment Amount Rs.1,00,000/-**	**Constructive**	**With Prior Appointment from the Authorized officer.**
2	**Mrs. Geetha Dadiga** W/o Mr.Srisailam Dadiga, No.4/161, Lemoor, K. V Rangareddy, Kandukar, Hyderabad-501359.	Residential Flat no 202, 2nd Floor, Pristine Vara, No 123, situated at infantry Road, Vasanthnagar, Bengaluru.	**Rs 7,03,91,185.60** (Rupees Seven Crore Three Lakhs Ninety One Thousand One Hundred Eighty Five and Paisa Sixty Only) Inclusive of interest along with further interest thereon.	**22.05.2025 Time of 2.00 pm to 6.00 pm**	**Reserve Price Rs.7,95,00,000/- EMD: Rs.79,50,000/- Bid Increment Amount Rs.1,00,000/-**	**Constructive**	**With Prior Appointment from the Authorized officer.**

For detailed terms and conditions of sale, please refer/visit to the website link https://www.bankofbaroda.in/e-auction and online auction portal Baanknet.com. Also, prospective bidders may contact the Authorised officer on Tel No. 080-23366736 Mobile 9652110439.

Date: 21.04.2025
Place:- Bengaluru

Sd/-Authorised Officer,
Bank of Baroda

Bullseye! Galaxy with nine rings may reveal dark matter secrets

Researchers found signs that a blue dwarf galaxy had passed through the centre of the Bullseye Galaxy, and the interaction could have led stars to pile up and form the rings; the Bullseye could evolve into a giant low surface-brightness galaxy, which is important in the study of dark matter

Shreejaya Karantha

A team of international researchers recently discovered a galaxy with nine rings. They called it a "serendipitous discovery" because previous ringed galaxies have only displayed two or three rings at best.

Using the Hubble space telescope, the team confirmed the presence of eight rings, while data from the W.M. Keck Observatory in Hawaii confirmed the existence of the ninth ring.

This unusual galaxy has been named LEDA 1313424 but its common name is more memorable: the Bullseye Galaxy. The story of how its rings could have formed may render it more memorable.

The Hubble Space Telescope image of the Bullseye Galaxy, processed by the European Space Agency with additional cropping and contrast adjustments made to highlight some of the low surface brightness structures. NASA/ESA

A thin trail of evidence

When the researchers analysed the data from the space telescope and the observatory, they found signs that a blue dwarf galaxy, located at the immediate centre-left in an image, had passed through the centre of the Bullseye Galaxy about 50 million years ago. They have said this interaction gave the Bullseye Galaxy its unique shape.

As evidence of this interaction, the team reported a thin trail of gas connecting the two galaxies even though they are separated by 130,000 lightyears (or 1.22 billion billion km). This is all the more remarkable considering the Bullseye Galaxy is nearly 2.5-times larger than the Milky Way with a diameter of 2,50,000 light-years.

On cosmic timescales, galaxies crash or barely miss one another relatively often. But even then it is very rare for one galaxy to literally dart through the core of another. The blue dwarf galaxy's straight path through the Bullseye Galaxy caused gas in the latter to ripple back and forth in waves, creating new places of star formation. The interaction didn't alter the orbits of individual stars but it caused groups of stars to pile up and form the distinct rings over millions of years.

The Bullseye Galaxy will continue to evolve and, as a result, will have these star-filled rings only for a short interval of time. This means the astronomers captured an intriguing image of a multi-ring galaxy in a special moment.

For other astronomers, however, the intrigue may run even deeper: the Bullseye Galaxy also contains signs that it could one day evolve into a giant low surface-brightness (GLSB) galaxy, which are important in the study of dark matter.

Their findings were published in February in *The Astrophysical Journal Letters*.

Cosmic oddballs

Low surface-brightness galaxies have a shortage of elements heavier than hydrogen and helium. They also have very little star formation despite possessing large disks filled with hydrogen, the primary fuel for new stars. Scientists haven't been able to explain this paradox. These galaxies are also believed to be filled with dark matter, making them excellent targets of study if scientists are to understand this still-mysterious form of matter.

These galaxies also have a more uniform distribution of mass near their centres – which is at odds with the standard model of cosmology, which predicts the centres of galaxies to be a lot more dense. This discrepancy is another challenge scientists are trying to overcome with more data and better theories.

Giant low surface-brightness (GLSB) galaxies are the largest of the low surface-brightness galaxies. All GLSB galaxies are truly colossal. Their most famous member, called Malin 1, is roughly 6.5-times wider than the Milky Way and one of the largest spiral galaxies known.

"GLSB galaxies are spiral galaxies that possess very diffuse or low surface density stellar disks, yet they are embedded within large neutral hydrogen gas disks," said Mousumi Das, a professor at the Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru, who specialises in low-surface brightness galaxies among other areas.

She added that the mass of black holes at the centers of these galaxies is also lower than usual, meaning they aren't fully evolved.

Given the various ways in which LSBs deviate from the patterns that unite other galaxies, astronomers have struggled to understand them. Their simulations, which are based on the standard model of cosmology, predict these galaxies' hydrogen content, the surface brightness of their disks, and their density profiles – only for them to be at odds with what astronomers see in the data collected by telescopes and observatories.

In science, such a disagreement means the scientific theories are in some way incomplete.

There are some ideas to resolve the disagreement. Das offered one example: "Previous studies have indicated that the dark-matter halos surrounding these galaxies spin more rapidly than expected," a process she likened to "how clay behaves on a spinning potter's wheel. As the wheel turns, the clay spreads and thins out. In the same way, as these dark-matter halos rotate rapidly, the material within them expands outward, creating a large, disk-like shape with a low density," and eventually GLSB galaxies.

> The mass of black holes at the centers of these (GLSB) galaxies is also lower than usual, meaning they aren't fully evolved
>
> **MOUSUMI DAS**
> Professor, Indian Institute of Astrophysics, Bengaluru

"And their disks are not dense enough to easily form stars."

Studying GLSB galaxies in more detail could help check whether this idea, and others like it, could be true. This in turn makes confirming whether newfound galaxies like the Bullseye could be GLSB galaxies in future more important.

New insight

The international team of researchers reported that the size of the Bullseye Galaxy's extended disk and hydrogen content relative to its stellar mass are comparable to that of other GLSB galaxies, and that it's likely to become one in future. But in their paper they were also careful to add that more analysis is still required.

Ms. Das said, "The transition from a ringed galaxy to a GLSB galaxy is still a theory that is being explored" and that "past simulations have demonstrated that some GLSB galaxies may have formed from head-on collisions between disk galaxies", as in the Bullseye Galaxy's case. But she also said most GLSB galaxies are found in isolation – i.e. not surrounded by other galaxies nearby – making it less likely for them to have experienced such collisions. In other words, confirming Bullseye's candidacy as a pre-GLSB galaxy is complicated.

A 10th ring?

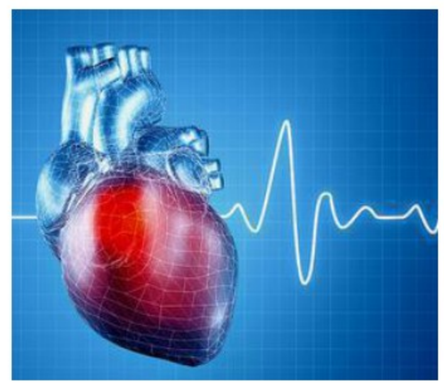
At this moment, astronomers have an opportunity to obtain the first direct observational evidence of a collisional ring galaxy turning into a GLSB galaxy – or not.

Ms. Das expressed optimism because, she said, the new study offers compelling evidence of an evolutionary link between the Bullseye Galaxy and GLSB galaxies.

The authors of the new study have also said the Bullseye Galaxy may once have had a 10th ring that has since faded. They added that over billions of years following the collision, the nine rings will also slowly drift out and fade away, leaving behind a GLSB galaxy.

Ms. Das added that more information about the formation of GLSB galaxies could reveal new insights into the distribution of dark matter in the universe. Eventually, "if the [current] theoretical models are correct, we should see GLSB-like galaxies in the results of cosmological simulations."

(Shreejaya Karantha is a freelance science writer and a content writer and research specialist at The Secrets of The Universe. *shreejayakaranth@gmail.com)*



A traditional temporary pacemaker requires invasive open heart or endovascular surgical methods to implant and remove. Representative illustration. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Tiny device enhances pacemaker's abilities

Navaneeth Krishna V.

Scientists at Northwestern University in the U.S. have engineered a pacemaker smaller than a grain of rice. The makers of the device say it can be implanted in a non-invasive procedure and that it doesn't need an external power source to operate. The team published its paper in *Nature* on April 2.

The device opens the possibility of replacing other, more cumbersome medical procedures, especially for infants born with congenital heart disease and people recovering from cardiac surgery.

People who have just undergone heart surgery need temporary pacemakers – as do infants born with congenital heart disorders. Both groups are prone to declining cardiac health and slow heart rates for some time.

The biggest highlight of the new device is its small size – so small that its developers have said it can simply be injected into the heart. While scientists at Oklahoma University had previously built a small pacemaker, the new one from Northwestern University is reportedly smaller by 2.5 times.

A traditional temporary pacemaker requires invasive open heart or endovascular surgical methods to both implant and remove.

The new device has been made with bioresorbable materials, meaning that after the required duration, the pacemaker simply dissolves into the tissue, causing no harm to the person

In the four to seven days when the pacemaker is required, electrodes in larger devices also have to be integrated with the tissue, rendering their removal a non-trivial procedure for the patient. In fact, this procedure has been known to increase the risk of infections, internal bleeding or sometimes even death.

The new device has been made with bioresorbable materials, meaning that after the required duration, the pacemaker simply dissolves into the tissue, causing no harm to the person.

It has two electrodes on the bottom-most of its multiple functional layers. They interact with the body's fluids to convert chemical energy into electrical energy, like how a car battery does but at a much smaller scale. This is its power source.

Once the pacemaker is injected into the body, the patient wears a patch on the outside of the chest that relays signals to the device. If the patch detects any irregularities in the heart rate, an LED attached to it flashes infrared light at the rate at which the heart ought to beat. The pacemaker receives these light signals and adjusts its signals.

Infrared light passes through the body pretty easily – it's the same wavelength of light pulse oximeters used to elucidate blood oxygen levels, for example.

The researchers measured the delay between the flashes and the readjustment to be 25 microseconds, "far beyond the requirements for cardiac pacing," per their paper.

The researchers said many of these little pacemakers could be placed along the heart's walls to help pace the organ at multiple points. They were able to test and confirm the usefulness of the device in adult hound dogs, rats, and pigs as well as in donated human hearts.

(Navaneeth Krishna V. is an undergraduate research student at IISER Pune. navaneeth.krishnav @students.iiserpune.ac.in)

THE SCIENCE QUIZ

The places where things do stay the same

Please send in your answers to science@thehindu.co.in

Vasudevan Mukunth

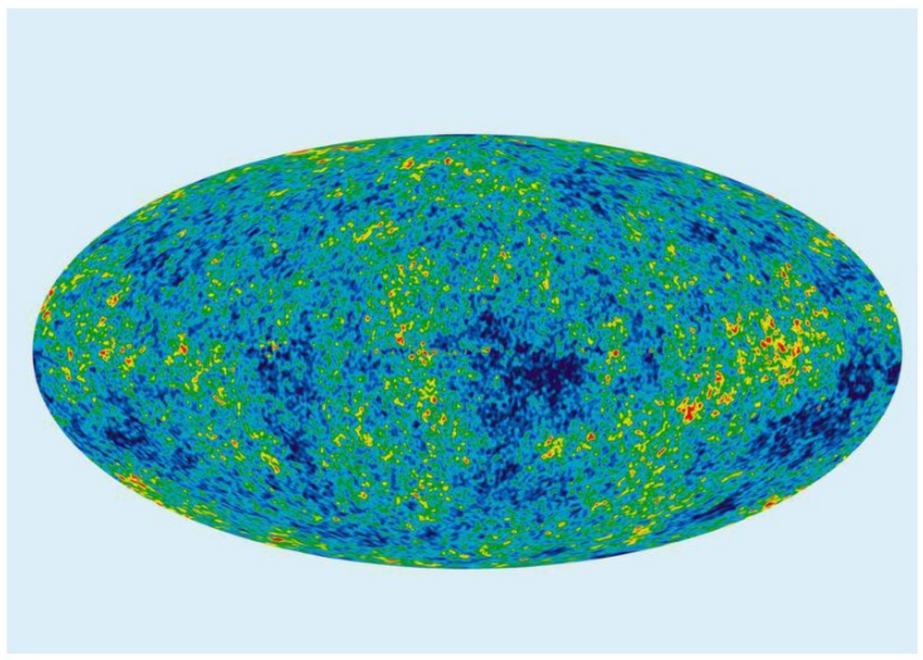
QUESTION 1
If the contour lines on a map show all the points that are at the same altitude, an _____ will show the set of all points that have the same steepness. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 2
In thermodynamics, this term denotes the set of all points at the same pressure. In nuclear physics, the same term stands for the set of all atomic nuclei — even of different elements — with the same mass number. Name the term.

QUESTION 3
If a geologist uses the term _____, they probably mean the set of all places with a common vertical thickness of rock — rather than parts of a DNA with a comparable proportion of guanine to cytosine, which is how a geneticist might mean it. Fill in the blank.

QUESTION 4
Say it's raining over your city with different intensities in different places. If you connected all the places receiving water at a common rate, say 2 mm/hour, you'd get an _____. Fill in the blank. Hint: It's not an isohyet.

QUESTION 5
Run a weather model on a supercomputer and a lighter version of the same model on your laptop, and you'll get two outputs that have different scales but are both X. This is like how a book in English and the same book translated to Tamil are X because they depict the same chain of events. Name X.



Visual: This map shows radiation leftover from the Big Bang right after it happened. It shows how the temperature of the radiation is anisotropic: different in different directions. What's this radiation called? NASA

Answers to April 15 quiz:
1. First lifeforms on the earth to produce oxygen – **Ans: Cyanobacteria**
2. Rock form created cyanobacteria form layered mats – **Ans: Stromatolites**
3. Hardy microbes from which eukaryotes evolved – **Ans: Archaea**
4. Adjective for Ginkgo biloba tree – **Ans: Living fossil**
5. World's most massive living organism – **Ans: Honey fungus**
Visual: **Tardigrade**
First contact: K.N. Viswanathan | Dinesh Kumar | Sheney Muraly | Anmol Agrawal | Fathima Niloofar

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Learners to Leaders

Nurtured by ALLEN

Result: JEE Main 2025

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AIR 1 — PERFECT 300 / 300 SCORER
OM PRAKASH BEHERA
3-year classroom course

AIR 10 — Overall 100 %ile
SAKSHAM JINDAL
3-year classroom course

AIR 11 — Overall 100 %ile
ARNAV SINGH
6-year classroom course

AIR 13 — Overall 100 %ile
ARCHISMAN NANDY
1-year classroom course

AIR 16 — Overall 100 %ile
RAJIT GUPTA
7-year classroom course

AIR 17 — Overall 100 %ile
MOHAMMAD ANAS
6-year classroom course

AIR 22 — Overall 100 %ile
LAKSHYA SHARMA
6-year classroom course

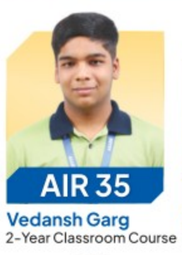
11 Students in Top 25 AIR

20 State Toppers

33 Students in Top 100 AIR

AIR 26
Vaibhav Vatsal
1-Year Classroom Course

AIR 34
Kalp H. Shah
2-Year Classroom Course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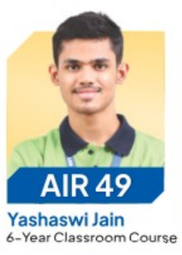
Vedansh Garg
2-Year Classroom Course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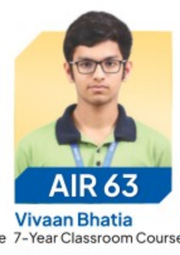
Yashaswi Jain
6-Year Classroom Course

AIR 50
Dishaanth Basu
1-Year Classroom Course

AIR 51
Aritro Ray
1-year Online Live Course

AIR 55
Dhruba Jyoti Panja
1-Year Classroom Course

AIR 60
Samudra Sarkar
4-Year Classroom Course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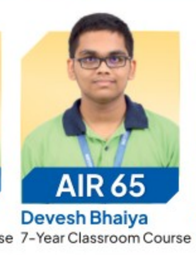
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7-Year Classroom Course

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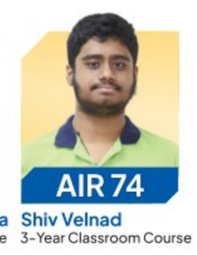
Akshat Kr. Chaurasia
2-Year Classroom Course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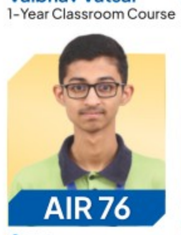
Shiv Velnad
3-Year Classroom Course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Garv
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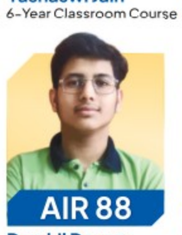
AIR 85
Udit Jaiswal
2-Year Classroom Course

AIR 87
Aagam Shah
6-Year Classroom Course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AIR 91
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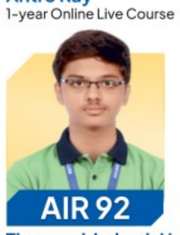
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Thrayambhakesh H
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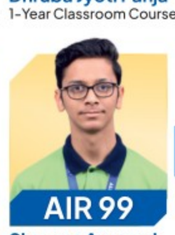

AIR 99
Shourya Agrawal
2-Year Classroom Course

Online Test Series & DLP Course Champions

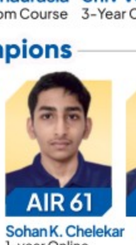
Overall 100 %ile
AIR 1
Devdutta Majhi
1-year Online Test Series

Overall 100 %ile
AIR 7
Aayush Chaudhari
6-Months Online Test Series

Overall 100 %ile
AIR 15
Harssh A Gupta
1-year Online Test Series

Overall 100 %ile
AIR 23
Harsh Jha
1-year Online Test Series

AIR 40
Aryan Mishra
2-year DLP


AIR 61
Sohan K. Chelekar
1-year Online Test Series

AIR 76
Yash Kumar
1-year Online Test Series

ALLEN South India Champions

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Shiv Velnad
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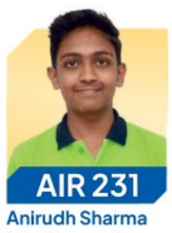
AIR 85
Udit Jaiswal
2-Year Classroom Course

AIR 185
Sai Krish K
2-Year Classroom Course

AIR 185
Shaurya Rathi
3-Year Classroom Course

AIR 191
M Samar Abbas
2-Year Classroom Course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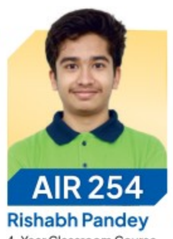
AIR 244
Raghav Jaggi
6-Year Classroom Course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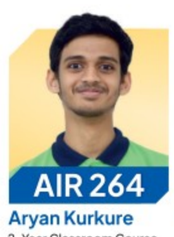
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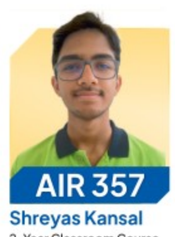
AIR 298
Jinesh Gandhi
2-Year Classroom Course

AIR 336
Srivatsan S
2-Year Chennai Classroom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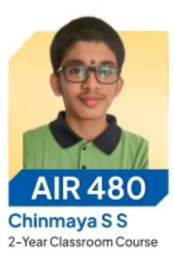
AIR 363
Nikhil Guha
2-Year Classroom Course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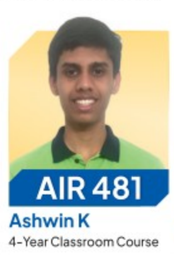
Chinmaya S S
2-Year Classroom Course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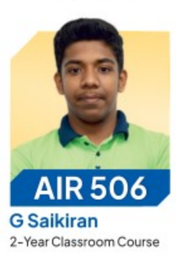
4-Year Classroom Course

AIR 487
Rohan Bohra
3-Year Classroom Course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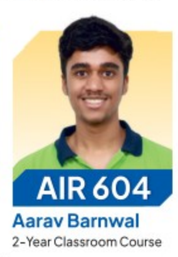
G Saikiran
2-Year Classroom Course

AIR 543
Saathvik S Sundar
2-Year Classroom Course

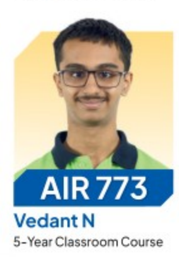
AIR 558
Abhinav Rajeev
5-Year Classroom Course

AIR 584
Advaith Anand
3-Year Mysuru Classroom

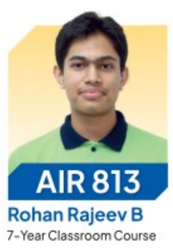

AIR 604
Aarav Barnwal
2-Year Classroom Course

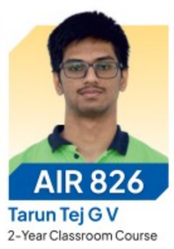
AIR 621
Siddharth Gunturi
2-Year Classroom Course

AIR 637
Aditi Narain
2-Year Classroom Course


AIR 773
Vedant N
5-Year Classroom Course

AIR 798
Dharanidharan K
2-Year Chennai Classroom


AIR 813
Rohan Rajeev B
7-Year Classroom Course


AIR 826
Tarun Tej G V
2-Year Classroom Course

AIR 854
Nishant Miglani
4-Year Classroom Course

AIR 882
Judah Bharathan
5-Year Classroom Course

AIR 894
Vinay Kumar Das
7-Year Classroom Course

AIR 904
Gowtham K K
4-Year Classroom Course

AIR 921
Harinandan G S
5-Year Classroom Course

AIR 970
Amogh Gupta
6-Year Classroom Course

AIR 977
Nanda Kishore C N
2-Year Classroom Course

AIR 988
Sriramnarayanan M
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As per result compiled till 19 April 2025 (07:00 PM)

*Subject to the scholarship rules and the T&Cs.

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Assets to be restituted by the ED to fraud victims during 2025-26

15,000 in ₹ crore. The Enforcement Directorate has earmarked assets that will be restored to the victims of real estate, Ponzi and other frauds across the country during the current financial year, officials said. Till date, assets worth a total of ₹31,951 crore have been restituted under this provision. PTI

Number of people killed in Russian hits during Easter ceasefire

3 Russian attacks leave three others wounded in Ukraine's southern Kherson region. Russia violated the ceasefire over 2,900 times, Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy said in a statement. He said that Russian forces carried out 96 assault operations along the front line, shelled Ukrainian positions over 1,800 times and used hundreds of drones during the course of the ceasefire. AP

The death toll from the U.S. air strikes on Sanaa early Monday

12 Apart from the fatalities, Yemen's Houthis said early Monday that U.S. air strikes on Sanaa left 30 wounded, with a military spokesperson later claiming attacks on U.S. aircraft carriers and Israel. Houthi military spokesman Yahya Saree said the group launched attacks on two U.S. aircraft carriers in response to the latest deadly American strikes. AFP

Number of electric buses set to aid Delhi's last-mile connectivity

76 According to officials, the first batch of the 76 buses will operate from the Ghazipur depot under the Delhi Electric Vehicle Interchanges (DEVI) initiative. The electric bus service is aimed at strengthening feeder connectivity to metro stations and major Delhi Transport Corporation (DTC) bus routes, with each vehicle expected to cover approximately 12 kilometres. PTI

Temporary tariff to be imposed on steel to curb Chinese imports

12 in per cent. India, world's second-biggest crude steel producer, was a net importer of finished steel for the second consecutive year in 2024/25 fiscal year. Last month, the Directorate General of Trade Remedies recommended a tariff of 12% on some steel products for 200 days, as part of efforts to stem cheap imports. REUTERS

COMPILED BY ANIKA K.

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Judiciary's place atop the pyramid

The Vice-President's recent criticism of the judiciary has received a mixed response, but complaints about it's lack of transparency and accountability — apprehensions also shared by the public — need to be addressed appropriately

EXPLAINER

Rangarajan R.

The story so far:

Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar recently raised certain issues with respect to the independence of the judiciary, its powers of judicial review and the judgment prescribing timelines to the President and Governor for their actions.

What is the current context?

The Vice-President expressed his views on various issues surrounding judiciary in a recent event. Firstly, he talked about the lack of transparency in the inquiry being conducted by a committee of judges in the aftermath of the recovery of huge piles of cash at a Delhi High Court Judge's residence. He questioned the legality of the procedure being followed in such cases that is not laid down under any law made by Parliament.

Secondly, he remarked about the recent judgment of the Supreme Court, in which the court had prescribed timelines for the President and Governors to take action on State legislations. The court had ruled that it could issue a writ of 'Mandamus' to these high constitutional offices in the event of inaction or inordinate delays.

Third, he raised concerns about lack of accountability of judiciary towards the public at large, unlike the legislature and executive. It was in the context of judicial review of legislation by Constitutional Benches as well as orders passed that encroach upon the executive domain. The provisions of Article 145(3), which require a minimum of five judges for adjudicating on constitutional validity in any matter, were made in 1950 when the total strength of the court was eight judges. He suggested that it may need to be revisited as the present strength is 34.

Critical feedback: There have been views that Dhankar's speech doesn't behove the constitutional and ceremonial office he holds. ANI

Finally, he opined that the top court has been utilising its extraordinary power under Article 142 (to provide complete justice in any case), in a way that undermines representative democracy.

A critical analysis

There have been views that the speech by the Vice-President doesn't behove the constitutional and ceremonial office that he holds. A critical analysis of the speech presents us with arguments in support and against the observations.

Apprehension about the opaqueness of inquiries conducted by the judiciary in the case of alleged misbehaviour by judges is widely shared by the common public. The Chief Justice of India should devise a procedure that provides for utmost transparency in such cases to instil confidence in the rule of law.

One of the underlying root causes for various issues concerning the judiciary is lack of accountability and transparency in appointments through the collegium process. A broad-based National Judicial Appointments Commission, with the CJI being provided a veto to have final say in the appointment process, would make the selection process more transparent and inclusive without compromising on the independence of the judiciary.

However, the recent order of the Supreme Court prescribing timelines to the President and Governors was well within its powers of upholding the constitutional principles. The two judges in this case had arrived at their conclusions based on various Constitution Bench judgments decided earlier. It is pertinent to note that similar timelines have also been provided in the Office Memorandum prepared by the Home Ministry in February 2016.

Similarly, 'judicial activism' by the courts, including its use of Article 142, has contributed significantly to providing justice to the needy as well as holding the executive accountable. Some notable orders under Article 142 include compensation for victims of Bhopal gas tragedy (1989), guidelines against sexual harassment at work place (1997), cancellation of coal-block licenses that were allegedly improperly allocated (2014), permanent commission of women officers in armed forces (2024), and directives to public officials with respect to demolitions (2024).

Further, considering the precedence developed in the past seven decades and pendency of cases in the Supreme Court, the current requirement of five judges for a Constitution Bench may be optimum.

Judicial review and its independence

Parliamentary democracy works on the principle that the executive is accountable to the legislature, which in turn is answerable to the people in every election. However, it is the judiciary which is the independent branch that upholds the Constitution and its principles in governance.

The doctrine of Parliamentary sovereignty is associated with the British Parliament. This is because there is no written constitution in the U.K. and Parliamentary laws are supreme for governance of the country. On the other hand, the concept of judicial supremacy is associated with the U.S. It is because the American Supreme Court has wide powers in interpreting their constitution as per 'due process of law'.

The Indian Constitutional scheme is a synthesis of Parliamentary Sovereignty and Judicial Supremacy. 'Judicial review' has been declared as a 'basic structure' of the Constitution in various judgments of the Supreme Court that has reinforced 'Constitutional sovereignty'. All the branches of governance should uphold the constitutional values through healthy separation of powers rather than confrontation.

Rangarajan R. is a former IAS officer and author of 'Courseware on Polity Simplified'. He currently trains at Officers IAS Academy. Views expressed are personal.

THE GIST

- Putting forth his views on the judiciary, the Vice-President talked about three major 'issues' — lack of transparency, recent judgment on Governors, lack of accountability towards the public, and its use of extraordinary powers undermining democracy.
- A broad-based National Judicial Appointments Commission could help make the selection process more transparent and inclusive.
- On the other hand, the recent verdict on Governors was well within the court's powers. And 'judicial activism' by courts, including use of Article 142 to provide 'complete justice' has benefited many in need and held the executive accountable.

Why did China block exports of rare earth elements?

What are rare earth elements? Why did China restrict their imports? How do the restrictions impact India?

Aroon Deep

The story so far:

Amid the ongoing U.S.-China trade war, Chinese authorities have reportedly imposed export controls on rare earth elements (REEs) and magnets that are needed in a range of manufacturing activities, from semiconductor fabrication units to defence equipment. This has been one of the more recent salvos in the trade war between the two countries, but the export restrictions apply to any Chinese refinery that can export refined rare earths outside the country.

What are rare earth elements?

Rare earth elements are a series of 17 substances that are present in the earth's crust. Unlike what the name may indicate, rare earths occur plentifully in nature, but the rarity comes from the ability to isolate them chemically and make them usable in industrial applications. Heavy and light rare earths occur naturally in several countries, such as India, China, Myanmar, Japan, Australia and North Korea.

China's curbs target dysprosium, gadolinium, lutetium, samarium, scandium, terbium, and yttrium, seven of the 17 elements classified as REEs.

Dysprosium's so-called magnetic susceptibility makes it ideal for use in hard disks and car motors; gadolinium is used in nuclear reactors for shielding and in some medical equipment; lutetium and compounds with it are used in PET scanners and in petroleum refineries; samarium is used in powerful magnets in personal electronics; scandium-aluminium alloys are used in fighter aircraft; terbium is used in lighting for personal electronics; and yttrium is used in cancer treatments and superconductors.

What are China's export restrictions?

Practically all heavy REEs used all over the world are refined in China. From personal electronics to defence, therefore, Beijing has enormous leverage over the entire world for a range of supply chains for critical raw and intermediate materials. The export restrictions don't appear to amount to an outright ban, but could interrupt supplies to countries for a few weeks as refiners work through the process of getting permits.

What is the impact on India?

Indian supply chains may not be immediately impacted by REE export restrictions in China. While the government has taken steps to boost domestic production of semiconductors and defence equipment, the more advanced stages of manufacturing typically happen abroad in countries like China itself, and Japan. The latter country has already taken steps to insulate itself from REE supply shocks, by building a months-long stockpile.

India has recognised the importance of REE production, as it is estimated to have 6% of their total deposits. Mining and refining activities tend to present great environmental strain, which have been factors in India's practically non-existent capabilities in those activities.

India has light REE extraction capabilities through the state-owned Indian Rare Earths Ltd, such as monazite extraction from beach sand in Kerala.

India imports a limited quantity of REEs. In a response to the Lok Sabha earlier in April, the Ministry of Mines said 2,270 tonnes of REEs were imported in 2023-24. As such, the country's strategy depends on both boosting domestic production and imports.

What is the government's plan?

"As a policy framework for utilizing critical minerals, including rare earth metals, the National Critical Mineral Mission (NCMM) has been launched, which is India's strategic initiative to secure critical mineral supply chain by increasing domestic critical minerals production and foreign supply sources," the Ministry said in Parliament.

Critical minerals are a larger umbrella under which REEs fall.

"China's restrictions on certain critical minerals, the Russia-Ukraine War, and other issues highlight the fragility of critical mineral supply and the need for diversifying sources," the Ministry of Mines said in a presentation on the NCMM in January.

Under the NCMM, the government has said it will facilitate or engage in 1,200 exploration projects, award exploratory licenses to incentivise private exploration, and auction more critical mineral blocks.

THE GIST

- Amid the ongoing U.S.–China trade war, China has restricted the export of 17 rare earth elements that are essential materials in a wide range of industries — from being used in hard disks and car motors to superconductors and cancer treatment.
- With practically all REEs being refined in China, this move could interrupt supply chains across many countries for a few weeks.
- India may not be immediately impacted by the move; besides, the government has been working on realising the country's potential in REE extraction.

No rooms for solo pilgrims visiting Raghavendra Swami Mutt in Mantralayam

Shreyas H.S.
BENGALURU

Devotees seen in front of the Sri Raghavendra Swami Temple at Mantralayam. K. BHAGYA PRAKASH

Devotees undertaking solo pilgrimage to the Sri Raghavendra Swami Mutt at Mantralayam in Kurnool district of Andhra Pradesh are barred from availing accommodation in the vicinity, including those at the Karnataka State Choultry.

Single travellers arriving at the Mutt without prior reservation face significant challenges in securing a place to stay.

Sachin Rai, who arrived on the morning of April 7 after travelling nearly 370 km from Bengaluru to seek darshan of Raghavendra Swami, experienced firsthand the difficulties faced by solo pilgrims. His requests for a room were rejected by several establishments. Mr. Rai was somewhat fortunate to get temporary access to washroom facilities at the Karnataka State Choultry before his visit to the Mutt. He noted that many devotees, who are unaware of this norm, are forced to sleep outdoors before the darshan.

Stated in website

A spokesperson for the Mutt told *The Hindu*, "This restriction has been in effect for some time. The Mutt's official website states: 'No room will be allotted under any circumstances for a single person. Such reservations would be deemed cancelled and the amount is non-refundable'."

Untoward incident

The spokesperson emphasised that this rule is being strictly enforced to prevent any untoward incident. The Mutt manages around 1,100 rooms, none of which accommodate solo travellers.

He revealed that, in the recent past, the Mutt faced pressure from local police following instances of missing persons and death by suicide by solo travellers. The police had advised the Mutt to collect more identification documents from such visitors. However, many devotees felt offended when asked for detailed verification. To avoid such complications, the Mutt decided to completely disallow accommodation for solo visitors.

Even private lodges in the area have followed suit, reportedly due to similar concerns.

Menace of touts

Venkatesh P., a regular visitor from Raichur, mentioned that some private lodges are exploiting the situation. Touts can be seen near the Mutt, targeting lone pilgrims who have not got rooms, charging them inflated rates.

Karnataka's Transport and Muzrai Minister Ramalinga Reddy told *The Hindu* that he too was unaware of this restriction. He promised to enquire with the Karnataka State Choultry to understand why rooms are not being allotted to solo travellers.

'Data may have been digitised even if original report is missing'

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

CASTE CENSUS

Congress MLC Yathindra Siddaramaiah on Monday claimed that the data pertaining to the Socio-Economic and Educational Survey, popularly known as the caste census, would likely have been digitised even if the original report were to have gone missing. Fielding reporters' queries with regard to the Opposition leaders' charges on the original report going missing, Mr. Yathindra said the then Chairperson of the Karnataka State Commission for Backward Classes would give a clarification on the issue.

Mr. Yathindra not only dismissed as "baseless" the BJP's charges that Chief Minister Siddaramaiah had kept the original report with him, but also termed as "ridiculous" and borne out of "prejudiced assumptions" the allegations that Mr. Siddaramaiah would do injustice to dominant castes as he belonged to the backward communities.

He sought to emphasise that the caste census would not do any harm to any caste and sought to dispel the "misconception" that some communities will be affected if it were to be implemented.

Pointing out that the caste census report had sought to increase the percentage of reservation from the existing 32% to 51%, Mr. Yathindra said all the backward classes, including the Vokkaligas and Lingayats would stand to benefit if the report is implemented.

Various backward communities had been seeking an increase in the percentage of their reservation in view of the rise in population. Removing the 50% ceiling on reservation was a solution to increasing the quantum of reservation for various backward classes, Mr. Yathindra said.

Madhu Bangarappa holds Janaspandana

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Minister for School Education Madhu Bangarappa responded to many grievances raised by the public during the Janaspandana programme, organised by the Shivamogga district administration at Hosanagar on Monday. The grievances included a demand for the sanction of borewells for agricultural purposes, a plea to rectify the ration card in which the name of an old woman had been removed erroneously, problems in power supply, the delay in the grant of land, the release of a pension meant for the physically challenged, among others. Parvathamma, 80, a resident of Malavalli in Hosanagar taluk, complained to the Minister that her name had been removed from the ration card, citing that she had died. She had been denied foodgrains and other benefits.

The Minister wondered how the officers could delete the names without verifying the facts. He ordered the officers to rectify the mistake.

BUSINESS CONNECT — A Business Initiative

C. Krishniah Chetty Group of Jewellers launches Limited-Edition Medallion Honouring Maha Kumbh Mela 2025

In homage to one of the most spiritually revered events in the world, the CKC Group of Jewellers has introduced the Commemorative Medallion of The Divine Kumbh Mela 2025–an exclusive collection inspired by the Maha Kumbh Mela at Prayagraj. Meticulously designed with cultural reverence, the medallions come in 999 pure silver and 24kt gold, offering a cherished token of connection to this rare spiritual event–celebrated once every 144 years. CKC presents this limited-edition release as a way for devotees and collectors to hold onto the sanctity of the Maha Kumbh. "This offering is not just about fine craftsmanship–it represents devotion. It is a sacred keepsake that encapsulates the spiritual essence of the Kumbh Mela," said Dr. C Vinod Hayagriv, MD of the CKC Group of Jewellers. Each piece is encased in thoughtfully designed, elegant packaging–perfect for gifting or personal devotion. Availability The Commemorative Medallion of The Divine Kumbh Mela 2025 can be purchased at all CKC showrooms or ordered online through the official website: https://www.ckcjewellers.com/ckc/search/mahakumbh This unique limited-edition collection serves as a timeless remembrance for those wishing to honour their connection with the Kumbh Mela and its deep spiritual legacy.

Bharat Heavy Electricals Limited (BHEL) Achieves Strong Revenue Growth and Record Order Inflows in FY 2024-25

BHEL, India's foremost engineering and manufacturing enterprise in the energy and infrastructure sector, has registered a revenue of Rs. 27,350 Crore (provisional and unaudited) for FY 2024-25, marking a robust growth of around 19% over the previous year. The company also secured its highest-ever order inflows during the year, amounting to Rs. 92,534 Crore. With this, BHEL's total order book at the end of FY 2024-25 stands at Rs.1,95,922 Crore. Key highlights of the year include - In the power sector, BHEL maintained its leadership by winning orders worth Rs. 81,349 Crore. The industrial segment recorded fresh orders worth Rs. 11,185 Crore, reflecting the company's diversified presence across sectors such as transportation, defence, process industries, and industrial equipment. On the execution front, BHEL commissioned/synchronised 8.1GW of power capacity, demonstrating its continued focus on project delivery and operational efficiency. With double-digit revenue growth, a record order book, and a healthy execution pipeline, BHEL enters FY 2025-26 with strong momentum. The company remains committed to delivering high-impact infrastructure, driving indigenisation, and enhancing stakeholder value.

Celebrate Auspicious Beginnings With Bhima This Akshaya Tritiya

BHIMA

Akshaya Tritiya, one of the most sacred and prosperous days in the Hindu calendar, is a time when every new beginning is believed to bring enduring success and abundance. This year, Bhima invites you to welcome prosperity into your life with exclusive festive offers and divine blessings from April 18th to May 1st 2025. Customers can enjoy a good discount on gold jewellery, across a diverse collection that reflects both classic heritage and contemporary craftsmanship, featuring elegant solitaires, intricate necklaces, and timeless rings. Enjoy great discount on silver making it an ideal opportunity to bring home pooja essentials and graceful gifts. This festive season also brings a delightful surprise with every purchase get a scratch-and-win card, giving customers the chance to win a cashback. Embrace the blessings of Udupi Sri Krishna with our specially crafted limited edition 10-gram 24KT gold bar, which is divinely blessed at the Udupi Sri Krishna matha temple and engraved with the sacred image of Udupi Sri Krishna, making it a cherished heirloom of spiritual and material significance. Make your Akshaya Tritiya truly special with Bhima, where every piece carries the promise of purity and prosperity.

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Chief Guest

Valedictory Address at 6:55 PM

Thiru T M ANBARASAN
Hon'ble Minister of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises and Urban Habitat Development Board, Government of Tamil Nadu

Keynote Address at 9:30 AM

Dr Atul Anand, IAS
(Additional Chief Secretary, MSME Department, Government of Tamil Nadu)

In the presence of

Dr C Muthamizhchelvan
(Vice Chancellor, SRM Institute of Science and Technology)
AR Unnikrishnan
(Chairman, CII Tamil Nadu State Council & Managing Director - Glass Group, Saint-Gobain India Pvt Ltd)
Sivarajah Ramanathan
(Mission Director & Chief Executive Officer, Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission)

Event Schedule

Session 1: 10:15 AM - 11:15 AM
Building a Diverse Startup Ecosystem: Inclusion & Gender Equality
Dr Subalalitha C N (Professor Department of Computing Technologies, SRM Institute of Science and Technology)
Prateek Madhav (Co-founder & CEO, AssisTech Foundation)
Dr Jyotirmayee Dash (Managing Director, TeraLumen Solutions Pvt Ltd)
Moderated by **Ramya Kannan** (Chief of Bureau (Tamil Nadu), The Hindu)

Session 2: 11:20 AM - 11:50 AM
Fireside Chat: Harnessing Innovation: Tamil Nadu's Role in the Global Startup Ecosystem
Sivarajah Ramanathan (Mission Director & Chief Executive Officer, Tamil Nadu Startup and Innovation Mission)
In conversation with **Kunal Shankar** (Deputy Business Editor, The Hindu)

Session 3: 11:55 AM - 12:55 PM
Startup Success Begins in the Classroom: The Power of Education in Innovation
Dr Revathi Venkatraman (Professor & Chairperson, School of Computing, SRM Institute of Science and Technology)
Shaivee Malik (Co-founder & COO, Yotuh Energy)
Sudharsan Varatharajan (Co-Founder & CEO, Bversity)
Krishnan Balasubramanian (Institute Professor, IIT Madras)
Moderated by **Chandran Krishnan** (Managing Director & CEO, Campus Angels Network)

Session 4: 1:00 PM - 1:30 PM
Fireside Chat: Nurturing Startups from Campus to the Global Scale: Building Entrepreneurial Ecosystems in Universities
Dr Ananth Kumar (Associate Director, Entrepreneurship & Innovation, SRM Institute of Science and Technology)
In conversation with **Sujatha** (Deputy Editor, The Hindu)

Session 5: 2:35 PM - 3:35 PM
Nurturing Entrepreneurship in South Tamil Nadu: Opportunities & Challenges
Chandu Nair (Startup Advisor & Member Executive Board, The Chennai Angels)
Akhila Rajeshwar (Executive Director, TiE Chennai)
Vanitha Venugopal (CEO, Tamil Nadu Technology Hub (iTNT))
Sivakumar Palanisamy (Vice President, StartupTN)
Moderated by **Sangeetha Kandavel** (Senior Assistant Editor, The Hindu)

Session 6: 3:40 PM - 4:40 PM
Digital Transformation: Startup as a Catalyst for Change
Ashwin Desikan (Co-Founder & CTO, Atsuya Technologies)
Dr Tamizh Inian (Founder & CEO, Frigate Engineering Services Pvt Ltd.)
Phunith Kumar V (CPO & Co-Founder, Raptee HV)
Moderated by **Kunal Shankar** (Deputy News Editor, The Hindu)

Session 7: 4:45 PM - 5:15 PM
Fireside Chat: Democratizing Retail: How AI is Empowering Businesses of All Sizes
Sadique Ahmed (CEO, Pathfinder)
In conversation with **John Xavier** (Editor - Technology, The Hindu)

Session 8: 5:20 PM - 5:50 PM
Fireside Chat: Cybersecurity in the Startup World: Why Stakeholders Can't Afford to Ignore It
C R Srinivasan (CEO, Sify Digital Services)
In conversation with **Suresh Vijayaraghavan** (Chief Technology Officer, The Hindu Group)

Session 9: 5:55 PM - 6:50 PM
HealthTech Innovations: Revolutionising Healthcare in Tamil Nadu
Dr Boopesh Pugazhendi (Consultant Neurosurgeon, Naruvi Hospitals, Vellore)
Dr Adith Chinnaswami (Co-Founder, MediSim VR)
Dr Lallu Joseph (Quality Manager & Associate General Superintendent, Christian Medical College, Vellore)
Sharmila Devadoss (Founder & Managing Director, MedIoTek Health Systems)
Moderated by **Dr Krishnan Ganapathy** (Neurosurgeon)

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IN THE LIMELIGHT

Strong censure: Brahmin Raksha Manch members address a conference against the film *Phule*, at the Press Club of India in New Delhi on Sunday. ANI

Censoring change: How Bollywood's elite resist caste-conscious cinema

Phule seems to be the latest among the long line of alternative movies that have faced significant hurdles on the way to the big screen, simply for exploring Dalit-Bahujan identities and narratives that mainstream Hindi cinema has often shied away from; and it's not without a pattern it seems

Harish S. Wankhede

Hindi cinema, dominated by profit-driven masala films, often glorifies social elites while sidelining Dalit-Bahujan identities and their concerns. Mainstream Bollywood, criticised for promoting patriarchal and casteist stereotypes, rarely embraces cinema as a tool to challenge social injustices. Additionally, it tends to uphold the cultural and political agendas of traditional social elites while avoiding engaging with Dalit-Bahujan narratives and their social experiences. Popular cinema hesitates to embrace cinema as a platform for artistic and creative exploration that would unearth orthodox social practices and sensitise the audience about it.

In recent years, mainstream Hindi cinema has seen rare but significant attempts to challenge Bollywood's stereotypical narratives through films like *Article 15*, which exposes caste atrocities through a police officer's awakening, and *Dhadak*, which subtly weaves caste into a tragic romance, signal a shift toward socially aware storytelling. Other films like *Shamshera* and *Veda*, which address issues of caste oppression and present robust Dalit protagonists to fight such social ills, are crucial additions.

This emerging genre has carved out a peripheral yet vital space for films that expose societal injustices and advocate for reform, offering a vision of a more equitable society. Such efforts should be celebrated and supported, but the industry's conventional ruling elites have largely distanced themselves from this shift.

Instead, these films are often criticised as threats to the dominance of social elites, accused of disrupting social harmony by foregrounding Dalit-Bahujan symbols and narratives.

The recent controversy surrounding *Phule*, marked by the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) censorship of caste-related content, exemplifies a deliberate effort to suppress stories that dare to challenge the social and political dominance of the governing elite, highlighting the ongoing resistance to transformative cinema.

The arrival of Dalit-Bahujan cinema

This new site of cinema making is an innovative improvisation as it brings stories of vulnerable social groups and provides them a dignified mantle. This genre has introduced the iconic figures of Babasaheb Ambedkar and Mahatma Jyotiba Phule to the silver screen as their ideas and values too are influencing the narrative practices of Cinema and are getting much more resonance on the silver screen today.

The regional cinema (especially Tamil and Marathi) has offered impressive artistic cinema (like *Sairat*, *Jayanti*, *Kabali*, *Asuran* etc.,) that not only entertains the audience with its creative narratives but also educates them about the issues of social dignity and the need to fight against oppressive Brahmanical orthodoxy.

These new narratives depict Dalit-Bahujan characters not as passive victims or background figures, but as empowered protagonists with agency, dignity, and purpose. They challenge the conventional grammar of Indian cinema and open up space for a more democratised cultural discourse.

In doing so, this parallel stream is not just reshaping representation but redefining what mainstream Indian cinema can aspire to be. This is a nascent but promising genre, capable of democratising the Indian film industry.

Upper casteist opposition

Jyotiba Phule and Babasaheb Ambedkar were the fierce critics of Hindu caste system and the exploitative domination of priestly castes over the majority oppressed groups. They imagined modern India as a liberated territory not only from the aegis of the imperialist domination but also from our own Brahmanical and patriarchal servitude.

However, in the nationalist historiography and popular culture, these iconic figures were often relegated as the heroes of certain caste groups while the other leaders were elevated as the prime representatives of the national interest. The popular Hindi cinema too ignored the heroes, historic events and issues pertaining to the Dalit-Bahujan masses and mostly endorsed narratives that promote the social and political interests of the conventional social elites.

In the case of recent controversy around *Phule*, the CBFC has created technical hurdles for its release. The film, initially set for release on April 11, was delayed to April 25, due to objections from purported representatives of the "Brahmin community" in Maharashtra and subsequent CBFC directives to remove or alter caste-related content. The board directed the filmmakers to remove caste-specific terms like "Mahar", "Mang", "Peshwai", and "Manu's system of caste", as well as visuals like a man with a broom tied to his waist (a historical reference to Dalit oppression).

Phule appears to be advocating anti-caste politics, showcasing the Dalit-Bahujan characters as lead protagonists and offering a strong critique of Brahmanical social order. It appears that the state is ready to stop even the nascent process that could have democratised the cinema industries substantively in favour of the Dalit-Bahujan masses. Such removals by the CBFC would dilute the historical realities of Phule's fight against caste discrimination. These edits are mostly to sanitise history to appease fringe casteist groups while undermining the film's objective to confront the caste injustice.

On the other hand, cinema that propagate communal anxieties (*Kerala Story*), manipulates historic facts (*Kashmir Files*) and target the Muslim minorities as brutal foreign aggressors (*Chaava*) and anti-nationals is endorsed and promoted by the current regime at the centre. It shall be pointed out that films like *Punjab 95*, *Tees*, and *Dhadak 2*, which address social issues, also faced similar censorship, suggesting a pattern of suppressing narratives that challenge the Brahmanical value system.

The struggle for representation

A brief examination of Hindi cinema reveals that most characters on-screen embody the identities of social elites, with narratives mainly reflecting their cultural interests. While Muslim and Jatt Sikh identities add some diversity, the focus remains heavily on the perspectives of the social elites. In this landscape, films like *Phule* and *Dhadak 2*, which confront caste issues, centre Dalit-Bahujan characters, and challenge the cultural dominance of Brahmanical elites, deserve recognition.

Yet, institutions like the CBFC, influenced by governing elites, appear intent on suppressing such narratives, as evidenced by the censorship hurdles faced by *Phule*. These challenges underscore the fact that the fight for social equity and freedom of expression in Indian cinema remains unfinished.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"Am putting on weight. I must cut down on sweets."

"Cut down on? What is the difference between 'cut down on' and 'cut down'?"

"'Cut down' means 'to bring down by cutting'. He cut down the tree. 'Cut down on something' means 'to reduce it or do it less often'. I must cut down on beer. I must cut down on sweets means I should reduce my consumption of sweets."

"What is the meaning of 'consumption'?" "'Consumption' is from 'consume'. To consume means to eat or drink. His family consumes a lot of milk. 'Consume' also means to 'use up'. It is an old car. It consumes a lot of petrol. 'Consumption' also means 'tuberculosis'. It is used in old-fashioned English."

"What is a 'fib'?"

"A fib is a small he. He is a fibber. His hobby is fibbing. He enjoys fibbing. 'Fib' is an informal word. By the way, your maths examination is tomorrow. Are you plugging away at it?"

"Plugging away? What does it mean?"

"When you plug away at something, you work hard at something you consider difficult."

"Are you tired? You have plumped yourself down. Get up. Let's go."

"Plump yourself down? What does it mean?"

"When you plump yourself down, you sit down suddenly. This is an informal expression. Do you know what 'plump for' means?"

"No."

"If you plump for something or somebody, you choose them suddenly after considerable thought. He plumped for a cool drink."

"I plumped for coffee."

"What is the meaning of 'edgy'?"

"You say that someone is edgy when he is nervous, anxious. Note that there is no 'e' after 'g'."

"What is the meaning of 'like water off a duck's back'?"

"It means 'making no impression; having no effect'. I give him advice from time to time. It is like water off a duck's back. It has no effect."

Published in The Hindu on March 26, 1996.

Words of the day

Whimsical: determined by chance or impulse or whim rather than by necessity or reason

Synonyms: capricious, impulsive

Usage: *She thought mini marshmallows were a whimsical way of adding desserts to one's meal.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/whimsicalpro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˈwɪmzɪkəl/

Sanctimonious: excessively or hypocritically pious

Synonyms: self-righteous, holier-than-thou, pharisaic

Usage: *He dropped his sanctimonious act when his colleagues learnt to ignore him.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/sanctimoniouspro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /ˌsæŋk.tɪˈməʊ.ni.əs/

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

Pope Francis, who left a mark with his humble style of ministering, died on Monday. Here is a quiz on the first Latin American Pope.

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh

QUESTION 1
What is the Pope's birthname?

QUESTION 2
Which Argentinian football club was the Pope famously a fan of?

QUESTION 3
To which topic did the Pope once say: "Who am I to judge?", signaling a shift in the Church's stand?

QUESTION 4
In which South American country did the Pope apologise in 2015 for the sins and crimes of the Catholic Church against Indigenous peoples?

QUESTION 5
What curious artefact did the President of the country in the previous question present to Pope during the same visit?

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz.

1. Why April 21 was chosen as Civil Services Day and its debut.

Visual question:
Name this movie where Jonathan Pryce portrays Pope Francis. And who does Sir Anthony Hopkins portrays in the movie? ANI

Ans: To commemorate the day in 1947 when Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, then Union Home Minister, addressed the probationers of Administrative Services Officers; and 2006

2. Father of Civil Service in India. **Ans: Charles Cornwallis**

3. The third civil service that is common to Centre and State governments. **Ans: Indian Forest Service**

4. Former Prime Minister after whom IAS training academy is named and location. **Ans: Lal Bahadur Shastri and Mussoorie**

5. The colour of the Diplomatic Passport? **Ans: Red/Maroon**

Visual question: Cabinet Secretary heading all civil services. **Ans: T.V. Somanathan, IAS**

Early Birds: Tamal Biswas| Mohan Lal Patel| Siddhartha Viswanathan| Erfanally Oosmany| Piyali Tuli

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Traffic chaos near toll plazas ruins smooth highway experience

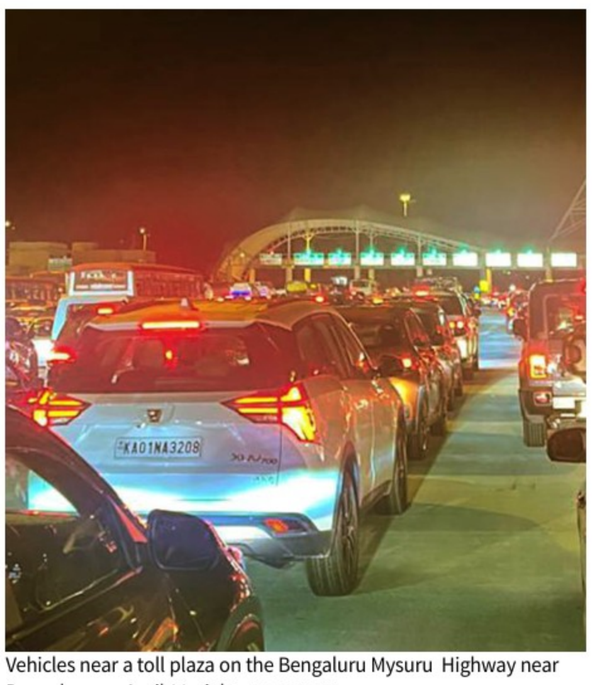
Many are calling for immediate action from NHAI, including better toll management, functional FASTag sensors, and contingency measures like opening gates during peak congestion

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

What was once hailed as a game-changer for commuters between Bengaluru and Mysuru is now earning brickbats from frustrated motorists. The much-hyped access-controlled Bengaluru-Mysuru highway witnessed massive traffic snarls this long festival weekend, particularly near the toll plazas at Sheshagiri Halli and Kaniminike, leaving thousands of travellers stranded for hours.

The congestion, especially on Sunday evening, turned a normally two-hour journey into an ordeal, as vehicles inched forward in serpentine queues stretching over several kilometres.

Despite the modern infrastructure, commuters allege that the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) failed to deploy adequate personnel and systems to manage the weekend rush, resulting in widespread chaos.


Vehicles near a toll plaza on the Bengaluru Mysuru Highway near Bengaluru on April 20 night. K.C. DEEPIKA

Complete standstill

Reshma Kushalappa and her husband, who were returning to Bengaluru from Kodagu, found themselves stuck for more than an hour at the Kaniminike toll plaza.

"We had just breezed through the highway when we suddenly came to a complete standstill before entering the city. Back in Mumbai, we've seen toll operators open gates during long jams to clear traffic. But here, no such measure was taken. What's the point of a six-lane highway if we are stuck at the very end?" she asked.

The couple, who recently moved to Bengaluru from Mumbai, say they have now come to expect these bottlenecks at the tail end of what is supposed to be a high-speed journey.

It's not a one-off incident. Commuters report recurring issues every weekend, particularly on Friday evenings, Saturday mornings heading to Mysuru, and Sunday evenings returning to Bengaluru.

"Even when I leave early, around 7 a.m. on Saturdays, I still get caught up in traffic at the Kaniminike toll plaza. The FASTag system often fails to read properly, which causes further delays," said Murlidhar M., a Kengeri resident who frequently travels to Mysuru.

Better management

Many are calling for immediate action from NHAI, including more efficient toll plaza management, better FASTag sensors, and contingency measures like opening gates during peak congestion to prevent further disruption. Another commuter, Supreeth G. from Hulimavu, said, "Whatever time we save on the expressway is wasted at the tolls. These jams have been happening regularly ever since the highway was inaugurated. It's disappointing."

> We had just breezed through the highway when we suddenly came to a complete standstill before entering the city. Back in Mumbai, we've seen toll operators open gates during long jams to clear traffic. But here, no such measure was taken. What's the point of a six-lane highway if we are stuck at the very end?
>
> **RESHMA KUSHALAPPA,** Traveller from Kodagu

> All the time we save on the highway is lost in the last kilometre, from the Panchamukhi Ganesha Temple to the NICE Road junction. It's a painful, exhausting experience
>
> **MAHESH KUMAR,** Nagarbhavi resident

> Even when I leave early, around 7 a.m. on Saturdays, I still get caught up in traffic at the Kaniminike toll plaza. The FASTag system often fails to read properly, which causes further delays
>
> **MURLIDHAR M.,** Kengeri resident

Officials from the National Highways Authority of India (NHAI) were unavailable for comment despite multiple attempts to reach them.

Adding to the woes, commuters also face traffic jams on and after the Kumbalgod elevated corridor. With over 70,000 vehicles using the highway on weekends, the final stretch into Bengaluru becomes very difficult.

"All the time we save on the highway is lost in the last kilometre, from the Panchamukhi Ganesha Temple to the NICE Road junction. It's a painful, exhausting experience," said Mahesh Kumar, a Nagarbhavi resident who frequently drives on the route.

He added, "On weekends, entering and exiting the Kumbalgodu flyover is nearly impossible. It's disheartening to see that time saved on the highway is simply vanishing because of poor planning."

BJP delegation urges Speaker to revoke suspension of 18 MLAs

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A BJP delegation led by Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok on Monday called on Assembly Speaker U.T. Khader and urged him to revoke the suspension of 18 BJP MLAs. After the meeting with Mr. Khader, Mr. Ashok said the BJP had staged a protest in the Assembly not against the Speaker but to oppose the honey-trap issue raised by Cooperation Minister K.N. Rajanna and sought a CBI probe into the issue. Many such protests had occurred when the Congress was in the Opposition and BJP legislators had not shown any disrespect to the Speaker, he said.

The Speaker said he would announce his decision after consultations with the government, Mr. Ashok said.

During the Budget session, 18 MLAs belonging to the BJP had been suspended for six months from the House for creating a ruckus. They had been suspended for "indiscipline and disrespectful behaviour".

Timings
BENGALURU

TUESDAY, APR. 22
RISE 06:03 SET 18:33
RISE 01:40 SET 13:24

WEDNESDAY, APR. 23
RISE 06:03 SET 18:33
RISE 02:24 SET 14:20

THURSDAY, APR. 24
RISE 06:02 SET 18:33
RISE 03:07 SET 15:16

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	35	25
Mysuru	34	22
Bengaluru	33	23

Bengaluru Today
33°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant. Spell of light rain and thundershower may occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
34°C The weather will be dry. Day will be warm. Night will be pleasant.

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THE HINDU
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From Page One

Contrary to expectations, mango yield drops again

The farmers have not seen a profitable year for a long time now, at least four to five years, due to infestation and weather problems.

This year's losses have pushed them further into economic losses.

"Our mango yield is down by almost 70% this time across the district. Temperature changes affect trees greatly as they are very sensitive during the flowering and fruit setting phase. Every year, our losses are mounting up," said Dharanish Kumar, president, Kanakapura and Channapatna Mango Growers' Association.

Mangoes arrive in market

The Sendhoora, Raspuri, Badami (Alphonso), and Banganpalli mango varieties from Ramanagara district have hit the markets, while the fruits from Kolar are expected to arrive by the first fortnight of May. The selling price of mangoes in Bengaluru is north of ₹150 per kg currently.

The mangoes arrive in the market in three phases – early arrivals, mid arrivals and late arrivals. "The arrivals will be steady this time as the season itself has started early. The season is likely to go on till the end of July or even August," said Mr. Nagaraju.

The Mango Board's online portal, Karsiri, on which consumers can place orders for mangoes directly from farmers, will be ready to take orders from Tuesday. Once the orders are placed, they will be delivered to consumers via India Post.

Call centre employee arrested for assaulting an IAF officer

However, Mr. Devaraja disputed this version of events. "Vikas Kumar was riding a bike and coming from the opposite side to a car driven by Madhumita Das, the wife of the IAF officer. Vikas Kumar was speeding, and Ms. Das questioned him. Vikas Kumar objected to this and raised it with Mr. Bose, who was sitting next to her. He got out of the car, and the two got into a fight. Five to six youngsters played their role in separating the two and pacifying both," he said, further adding that it was a common instance of road rage that both could have avoided.

He said that the investigation would continue, and the recovery of the dashcam video of the complainant's car would provide a clearer picture of the sequence of events.

Corruption case: SC refers BSY's appeal to larger Bench

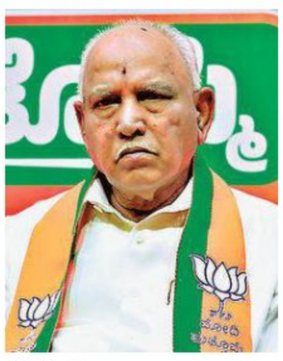
The former Chief Minister and BJP leader had challenged the revival of a corruption case against him

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday referred to a larger Bench a special leave petition filed by former Chief Minister and BJP leader B.S. Yediyurappa challenging the revival of a corruption case against him.

A Bench of Justices J.B. Pardiwala and Manoj Misra explained that one of the primary questions of law involved in Mr. Yediyurappa's case was whether a magistrate could order an investigation against a public servant under Section 156(3) of the Code of Criminal Procedure (CrPC) without getting prior approval from the appropriate authority under Section 17A of Prevention of Corruption Act, 1988.

Justice Pardiwala said during research for their judgement, he and Justice Misra came across the fact that a coordinate Bench



B.S. Yediyurappa

(another two-judge Bench) of the apex court referred a different case posing the very same question of law to a larger Bench in 2018. That reference was still pending adjudication even now in the apex court.

Tagging the petition filed by Mr. Yediyurappa with the 2018 case (Manju Surana vs. Sunil Arora & Ors), the Bench said that judicial discipline required them not to proceed with the judgement, but leave it to the larger Bench to decide.

"For maintaining judicial discipline, a coordinate Bench of this court had refrained from proceeding further in deciding the underlying issue which is under reference to a larger Bench. We deem it appropriate to tag these petitions with the referred matter Manju Surana vs. Sunil Arora & Ors. The registry is directed to place these matters before the Chief Justice of India for appropriate orders," the Bench said.

The case against Mr. Yediyurappa was based on a complaint by Alam Pasha, who had accused the former Chief Minister of entering into a conspiracy with others to revoke the approval granted by a high-level clearance committee to allot 26 acres of land at Devanahalli Industrial Area in Bengaluru Rural district. Mr. Pasha's case was that the alleged de-notification of government land meant for industrial development had cost the public exchequer heavily.

Mr. Yediyurappa was Chief Minister between 2008 and 2011 at the time these alleged events happened. The Lokayukta police had investigated the complaint and an FIR was registered under the Indian Penal Code and the Prevention of Corruption Act. Cognisance of the chargesheet was taken by the local court in 2013. However, Mr. Yediyurappa had approached the High Court of Karnataka to quash the FIR and the consequential proceedings.

The BJP leader had argued successfully in the High Court that since he was a public servant at the time of the alleged events, the magistrate ought not to have taken cognisance of the complaint under Section 156(3) of CrPC without prior approval from the appropriate authority under Section 17A.

Mr. Yediyurappa had banked on a 2013 Supreme Court case law, Anil Kumar vs. MK Aiyappa, to win his case in the High Court. The pending reference in the Manju Surana case deals with the correctness of law declared in the Aiyappa case.

Following the High Court decision, Mr. Pasha had waited for two months to file a second complaint containing identical allegations against the former Chief Minister.

This time, he argued that Mr. Yediyurappa had ceased to hold public office and there was no need for prior sanction to prosecute him. The trial court had dismissed the complaint for lack of sanction, but the High Court favoured Mr. Pasha.

The High Court further revived the corruption case against the BJP leader in 2021. This had compelled Mr. Yediyurappa to approach the Supreme Court.

'A caste can't be classified in different groups for providing quota in education, employment'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A community/caste will have to be classified under the same group for providing reservation for both educational and employment purposes, and cannot classified in two different groups, said the High Court of Karnataka.

The court also said that when a particular community is stated to be socially and educationally backward, it cannot be the case that such classes of citizens are adequately represented in the services under the State.

"Needless to say that for a person to be engaged in services under the State, such a person has to be educated and possess the requisite educational qualifications. If a class or community is socially and educationally backward for purposes of education, then the question of such socially and educationally backward classes being adequately represented in the services under the State would not arise," the

court made it clear.

Justice Suraj Govindaraj made these observations while allowing a petition filed by V. Sumitra, a government primary school teacher in Mysuru, who belongs to Balajiga/Banajiga community.

She had questioned cancellation of caste certificate issued to her in 1996 for the reason that she had declared that she belonged to Group-B of other backward classes (OBCs) though her community is listed under Group-D for public employment purpose. She had stated that she was not aware of classification of her caste under two different categories for educational and employment purposes.

It is probably for the same reason that the framers of the Constitution firstly introduced Article 15(4), providing for reservation to be made for socially and educationally backward classes of citizens for admission to educational institution, and thereafter under Article 16(4) provided reservation for employment, the court said.

Meanwhile, the court also said the classification of the Balajiga/Banajiga community for the purpose of employment being different from that for the purpose of education, is discriminatory and illegal and *void ab initio* and violative to Article 14 of the Constitution.

While directing the government to reclassify Balajiga/Banajiga community under Article 16(4) under Group-B instead of Group-D, the court said that petitioner belonging to Balajiga/Banajiga community would be entitled to reservation for employment, under Group-B and as such her employment as a primary school teacher has to be continued.

'Action will be taken against officials in janivara row'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said that disciplinary action will be taken against officials for asking students to remove 'janivara' ('sacred thread') while appearing for the Common Entrance Test (CET) last week.

One student in Bidar had been denied entry to the examination hall after he refused to remove the 'sacred thread'. A similar incident was reported from Shivamogga, though he eventually wrote the exam.

Speaking to reporters here, the Chief Minister said the government would take action against officials who were responsible for the incident.

Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said that religious symbols are not to be trifled with.

Meanwhile, several Brahmin organisations continued to hold protests in various districts against the incidents in the two CET centres in Bidar and Shivamogga.

In Belagavi, the organisations sought criminal action against officials who were responsible to for the incidents and threatened a State-wide protest against the State government.

The BJP expressed solidarity with the community.

Speaking in Bengaluru, Mr. Siddaramaiah said that he had directed the legal adviser to prepare a draft to enact 'Rohit Vemula Act'.

Former Congress president and Leader of Opposition in Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi had written to the Chief Minister urging him to enact the law for eliminating caste-based discrimination in educational institutions and ensure equitable access.

Advocates to protest move to transfer HC judges

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Opposing the Supreme Court collegium's resolution to transfer four judges of the High Court of Karnataka to different high courts, the Advocates' Association, Bengaluru (AAB), will hold a demonstration near the High Court premises on Tuesday.

In a statement issued here on Monday, AAB president Vivek Subba Reddy said that senior advocates with whom association held a meeting on Monday were of the unanimous view that the proposed move was "wrong" and the collegium should withdraw its decision to transfer these judges.

He further said that the association has called an emergency meeting to discuss the issue on Tuesday. The collegium, in its April 15 and 19 meeting, had recommended transfer of seven judges, including four from the High Court of Karnataka.

The four judges to be transferred from Karnataka are Justices Krishna S. Dixit, K. Natarajan, N.S. Sanjay Gowda, and Hemant Chandangoudar.

Meanwhile, the collegium has recommended transfer of Justice Perugu Sree Sudha to High Court of Karnataka from Telangana; and Justice Kumbhajadala Manmadha Rao of Andhra Pradesh HC to Karnataka HC.

AAB has also decided to send representation to the President, the Chief Justice of India, the Union Minister for Law, and others to cancel the transfer the judges from Karnataka HC.

CM: Govt. employees have made Karnataka a progressive State

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, and others with recipients of the Sarvothama Seva Awards in Bengaluru on Monday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Monday said Karnataka has become a progressive State and is second in Goods and Service Tax (GST) collection in the country, largely owing to the government employees' commitment to discharging their duties efficiently.

Speaking at a function organised to present the Sarvothama Seva Awards for 2023 to 30 State government officers/employees here, the Chief Minister told employees to follow the Constitution and discharge their duties to ensure removal of caste inequalities and ensure a secular society. The government's function was aimed at fulfilling the aspirations of the people as per the Constitution, he said.

Mr Siddaramaiah told employees to emulate the ideals preached by Buddha, Basavanna, Mahatma Gandhi, and B.R. Ambedkar. The ideals followed by these leaders have been enshrined in the Constitution, he said.

The Chief Minister said the responsibilities of the recipients of the award have increased and they should become models for other employees. All government employees discharge their responsibilities for the benefit of society, he said.

Speaking at the same function, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar urged the government employees to ensure that ordinary citizens who come to them to get their work done are not made to run from pillar to post, asking them to fetch one after another document.

"Lakhs of people apply for just 50 to 100 jobs. Remember that it is a rare opportunity to get a job in the government and use it to serve people," he said.

Office-bearers of the Karnataka State Government Employees Association and senior officials attended the programme.

Machado condoles Pope's death

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Archbishop Peter Machado of Bangalore Diocese expressed profound sorrow over the passing of Pope Francis on Monday, describing it as a tremendous loss not just for the Catholic church, but for the world at large.

ANDHRA PRADESH POLLUTION CONTROL BOARD
Paryavaran Bhavan, APIIC Colony, Autonagar, Vijayawada-520007. Ph: 0866-2463200
Date: 22-04-2025
e-PROCUREMENT TENDER NOTICE
Tender No.100/APPCB/CL/NAMP/2025
14/04/2025
Bids are invited through e-Procurement portal for supply of ambient air quality monitoring equipment (Respirable Dust PM 10 samplers & Fine Particulate PM 2.5 samplers). The tender document along with the schedule can be downloaded from **https://tender.apeprocurement.gov.in** & also available on APPCB website **www.pcb.ap.gov.in w.e.f. 22-04-2025 by 10.30 AM.**
The last date for submission of bids: **12.05.2025 by 05.00 PM**. For details, contact: **9177303326.**
Sd/-
Member Secretary

email: se_nerwkjr@rediffmail.com
GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER, RURAL WORKS CIRCLE : KEONJHAR
No. 1809 / **1st Corrigendum Notice** Date : 16.04.2025
Under unavoidable circumstances, **the availability of tender online for bidding & opening of Technical Bids** of the tender invited vide eProcurement Notice No. 1550 Dtd: 29.03.2025 / Bid Identification No. **NCB-44 / RWCKJR / 2024-25** of Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar is hereby rescheduled as below.

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender Online for bidding From	Availability of Tender Online for bidding To	Last Date & Time of Seeking Tender Clarification	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E., R.W.Circle, Keonjhar Technical Bid	Date & Time of Opening of Tender in O/O C.C.E., R.W.Circle, Keonjhar Financial Bid
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Chief Construction Engineer, Rural Works Circle, Keonjhar	NCB-44 / RWCKJR / 2024-25	Dt.07.04.25 at 11:00 A.M.	Dt.05.05.25 up to 5:00 P.M.	Dt.03.05.25 up to 5:00 P.M.	Dt.06.05.25 at 11:00 A.M.	Will be intimated later

All other contents remain unchanged.
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Keonjhar.
O-72: OIPR-25177/11/0069/2526

UT OF LAKSHADWEEP
LAKSHADWEEP DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVT. OF INDIA UNDERTAKING)
Ph: 04842323448/458 E-mail: amindivi@asianetindia.com
F.No: LDCL/Steamer-3 Dt : 15.04.2025
RE-TENDER
E-tender is invited for engagement of Stevedoring agency for Stevedoring Agency Service for UTLA owned Cargo Barges for Kochi and Mangalore Ports (New and Old Ports) through tenders, LDCL/Stevedoring/Kochi-3 and LDCL/Stevedoring/Mangalore-3. For details and E-tendering please visit website **https://www.tenderwizard.com/UTL** and **https://tendersutl.gov.in** Tender due on 02.05.2025 at 11.00 AM. For any help in e-tendering, please contact Help Desk No. 080-40482000 / 9605557738 / 9686115318 **(https://tenderwizard.com/UTL)** and 0120-4001002, 4001005, 6277787 **(https://tendersutl.gov.in).**
Sd/- MD (LDCL)

ZILLA PANCHAYATH, TUMKUR
PANCHAYATH RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION, TUMKUR
O/o Executive Engineer, Panchayath Raj Engineering Division,Tumkur
No.EE/PRED/Tmk/TND NO-01/2025-26 Dated:17.04.2025.
KPP-Procurement Tender Notice
Single & Two Cover System
TENDER NOTIFICATION No. 02/2025-26 DATED: 17.04.2025.
The Tender is inviting through KPP-procurement on behalf of government of Karnataka by the Executive Engineer, P.R.E.D. Tumkur KW-2 & KW-3 Tenders of 2023-24 works, Under 5054-CM Special Grant **(Indent No: (RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT14142) (RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT14143) (RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT14145) (RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT14146) (RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT14147) (RDPR/2025-26/RD/WORK_INDENT14148)** as per KTTP Act 2000 The Tender Documents can be obtained from the KPP- procurement Web Site and submitt the details on **Dated 17.04.2025. to 24.04.2025. upto 5.00 pm.** Further details can be obtained through website at **http://www.KPPP.karnataka.gov.in** or contact this office during office working hours.
Sd/- Executive Engineer
Panchayath Raj Engineering Division, Tumkur.
DIPR/TUM/RO-04/25-26/Oysters

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH

SAD DEMISE

Mr.MOHAN RAM NANJAPPA
(1948 - 2025)
We deeply mourn the untimely demise of Mr. Mohan Ram Nanjappa, Managing Director on 20th April 2025

A Fine Human being, A thorough Gentleman,
with unmatched integrity, he made immense contributions
to the growth of our Organizations
Our heartfelt condolence to his family.
May his soul rest in peace

Funeral will be held on :
22.04.2025 (Tuesday) @ 10.00A.M.

DEVI POLYMERS PRIVATE LIMITED
&
DEVI GROUP, CHENNAI

E-commerce portal developed by KEONICS launched

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

An e-commerce portal developed by the State-owned KEONICS was launched on Monday by Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar, who said the new portal will set a trend in the country. "Development and progress are only possible through technology. There is a need to equip the rural youth with professional skills in technology," the Deputy Chief Minister said on the occasion.

IT and BT Minister Priyank Kharge said that the new e commerce portal will address the problems faced by Keonics.

"The portal will help government departments procure products at the globally competitive prices," he said.

St Antony's Friary - Holy Spirit & Tongues of Fire.

Painting with light: The enduring allure of stained glass

Asad Hajeebhoy, a renowned stained glass artist and founder of Glasscrafters Studio, has worked with around 13 churches in Bengaluru to install or restore stained glass art

Shilpa Elizabeth
BENGALURU

It's houseful at The Bangalore Room, Indiranagar, on the evening of Easter, 2025. To the packed audience, Asad Hajeebhoy, renowned stained glass artist and founder of Glasscrafters Studio, poses a question.

"Which metal oxide gives a rich red while colouring glass?'

The crowd starts guessing – "cadmium, iron..."

No one lands the right answer. And then the artist takes everyone by surprise.

"Gold," he reveals. And it's a snapshot of what makes stained glass art, an interplay between light and colour, magical.

Hajeebhoy, who has to date worked with around 13 churches in Bengaluru to install or restore stained glass art, has spent a large part of his career in educating people about this centuries-old artform.

Infant Jesus Church - Sermon on the Mount.

A complex art form

Stained glass art, which was largely popularised by churches in Europe in the medieval period, is believed to have its origins in Syria. Some of the earliest examples of stained glass work can be found at the Canterbury Cathedral in England, the Augsburg Cathedral in Germany and the Baume-Les-Messieurs Monastery in France.

The complex art form has two parts to it. The first part involves the manufacturer/supplier who mixes metal oxides with glass to make coloured sheets of glass. Then comes the artist who joins these coloured glass pieces together to form a stained glass window. Sometimes, faces, figures, emblems, motifs or wordings are added to some pieces by painting and firing them. The art form is much harder than painting on canvas, paper or other surfaces, believes Hajeebhoy.

"If there's a mistake, you have to throw it. You can't correct it. When you paint, they appear as very dull matte colours. But once you fire it, the colours completely change, anywhere from 20% to 100%. It becomes a different colour, like how gold becomes red," he tells *The Hindu*.

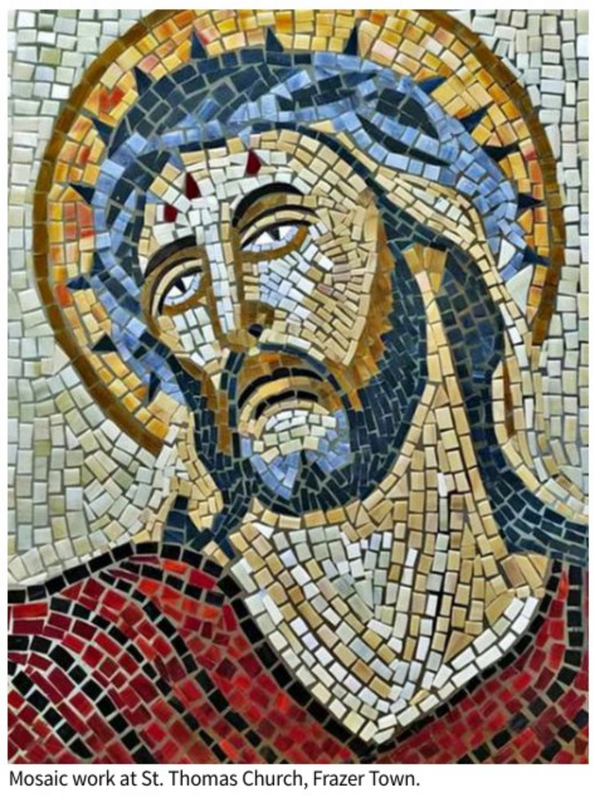
The metals occupy the molecular spaces within the glass and allow only particular wavelengths of light to be transmitted through, creating the magic that leaves the spectator awestruck.

St Mary's Basilica - Angel of Mercy.

"That's why it's different. It's theory of chemistry and theory of light all combined together," Hajeebhoy notes.

The process

Hajeebhoy's fascination with stained glass began when he was a class 12 student. A chance meeting with veteran stained glass artist Vinayak Patel became a major turning point in his life. Hajeebhoy's first commissioned project was for the residence of Bollywood doyens Neetu Singh and Rishi Kapoor. In 1996, he set up Glasscrafters in Bengaluru, where he indigenised most processes in the production of stained glass. "I make my machinery and tools. But we still import the glass sheets. The manufacturers' formulas for making the glass are like grandmother's recipes. Factories that make the glass do not let anybody else know their formula. Each factory produces about 500 to 1000 kinds of glass in different colours, textures, transparencies and so on."


Mosaic work at St. Thomas Church, Frazer Town.

The glass is then cut in the desired shape using a diamond cutter. A diamond head grinder is used to flatten the sharp and uneven edges of the cut glass. The pieces of stained glass are joined together using the copper tape method or the lead channel method. The copper tape technique, developed by Louis Tiffany in the 1890s, is also known as the Tiffany technique. Most stained glass work in churches, however, has used the lead channel technique, Hajeebhoy notes.

The art of staining

The 3 mm glasses are stained using metal oxides, which are available as very fine powders, but in very few colours. It is mixed with oils such as pine oil or ceramic oil to make a paint. Each piece of glass is painted on and then fired in a furnace at a temperature between 630 to 650 degrees centigrade. Depending on the size and shape of the piece, the heating continues for at least six hours.

During this process, the oxides fuse with the top layer of the glass and become permanent, explains Hajeebhoy.

The cooling happens even more slowly, making the whole process as long as about 20 hours.

"Each time we do it, it comes out different. No two pieces are the same," notes Hajeebhoy.

Of the most popular stains in the art form is the silver stain which is often used in painting faces. He explains why.

"If you put a thin layer of silver stain, you get a light yellow. Apply it a little thicker, it becomes a darker yellow. Add even more, and it becomes brown. So, with one stain and one firing temperature, you can get multiple colours, making silver stain the most important stain in stained glass."

According to Hajeebhoy, the churches were almost exclusively responsible for the art of stained glass to survive over the centuries. His first restoration work at a church in the city was at St. Mary's Basilica in Shivajinagar.

"The British built several churches in Bengaluru and imported the stained glass to be put up in these churches. Many of them were donated by the parishioners or people abroad, and some by people in India."

Some of the major restoration work done by Hajeebhoy and his team includes the All Saints Church, East Parade church, Holy Trinity Church, St Mark's Cathedral and St Patrick's Church, among others.

"Very often, the names of the original artists are not mentioned. It was only during the restoration of stained glass art in St Patrick's church that we surprisingly found the name of a studio from France. Most of the rest, I think, have come from England."

While his biggest work in terms of restoration has been the All Saints church, where the team took almost two years to complete both the floors, the biggest piece Hajeebhoy has commissioned to date in a church is at the St Antony's Friary in Madiwala.

"It was extremely difficult. The church gave me the design, which was done by a graphic designer in Chennai. We didn't have space in our studio for such a big piece because each section is about 3x10 feet and about seven such sections were making the entire piece very larger," says Hajeebhoy who recalls the experience of climbing up on the water tank each time to get a good perspective of the piece and to get the proportions right.

The less understood art

While stained glass has managed to stand the test of time, Hajeebhoy, who has been conducting workshops and educating people about the art, feels it is very little understood in India. Lack of awareness, confusing glass painting with stained glass, and replacement of old glass windows by fibre glass have often led to the loss of precious heritage and artworks.

He remembers an instance of driving past a church in Bengaluru once to spot some repair work going on at the church. As he entered the church, he saw that the stained glass windows and the arches of the small windows were being discarded. His efforts to appeal to the church authorities to save the heritage windows were in vain.

"That's what inspired me to go to more churches and ensure that the stained art work were not thrown out," he recollects.

Yet another instance was when he was invited to do restoration work of a small section at Victoria Terminus in Mumbai.

"It was only when I went up with the general manager that we realised that the windows that were meant to be restored were replaced by fibre-glass windows."

New customers

However, a new section of art connoisseurs seems to have been emerging. A large section of people – many of whom are software engineers – with disposable incomes are now interested in having stained glass art in their homes, notes Hajeebhoy.

"Most of our clients today are software engineers. Ashrams are also going for it lately. So, we've started doing a lot of work that is of Indian or Hindu themes. There are also pubs among our clientele."

With cheaper alternatives (such as glass etching made to look like stained glass) emerging in the market every day, undercutting the beauty, intensity and complexity of the art form, Hajeebhoy stresses the importance of education.

He has so far trained more than 2000 people, excluding the students he taught at various colleges.

"When I started in college, there were hardly five to seven people in India who were doing this work. Now there are over a thousand people," he says.

A question arises from the audience about the role of light in stained glass.

Hajeebhoy quips, "In the daytime it's brighter outside and darker inside. You enjoy the stained glass inside your house. In the night, when you put on the lights and the outside is dark, your neighbour will enjoy the stained glass. Sharing is caring."

CII to host expo and conference

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

The Confederation of Indian Industry (CII), Mysuru zone, will be hosting the CII Mysuru ESG Conference 2025 and Expo on Wednesday on the JSS Technical Institutions campus in Mysuru.

Facilitates dialogue

Themed "Driving Sustainable Transformation: Aligning Business with Sustainability," the conference aims to facilitate dialogue and actionable insights on integrating Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) frameworks into core business strategies, operations, and governance models.

The day-long conference will bring together distinguished industry leaders, sustainability professionals, academicians, and stakeholders to explore cutting-edge trends and best practices in ESG.

The first technical session, titled "Decarbonizing Industries: Pathways to Net-Zero Emissions and Resource Utilization," will focus on sustainable industrial transformation through energy efficiency, and process innovation.

FIR to be registered against teachers who use children to clean toilets in schools

DSEL has taken strong objection to teachers violating instructions issued to all government schools regarding the practice

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

The Department of School Education and Literacy (DSEL) has warned that it will register criminal cases against teachers who use students to clean toilets. The DSEL had banned the practice. The circular follows a recent spate of incidents where students were asked to clean toilets in schools, despite the ban.

The Commissioner of Public Instruction recently issued a circular stating that if there are any such cases, the concerned Block Education Officer (BEOs) and headmasters of the concerned schools will be held responsible and disciplinary action will be taken against them.

The circular, taking note of recent such cases, took strong objection to teachers violating earlier circulars issued to all government schools that students should not be made to clean toilets.

However, teachers have demanded an increase in funds allocated by the State government for the maintenance of schools, including cleaning toilets, arguing that a lack of funds and non-availability of labour to clean toilets regularly in several rural areas were forcing school managements to use children to clean them.

Teachers have demanded an increase in funds for the maintenance of schools. FILE PHOTO

The government is providing grants for government school's maintenance based on the number of students studying there.

For schools with less than 30 students, the government provides ₹4,000 per annum and for schools with over 1,000 students, it provides ₹40,000 per annum. These funds have to be utilised for cleaning toilets, arranging drinking water, office stationery, purchase and repair of sports equipment among others.

"Drinking water, purchase of office records, repair of furniture and sports equipment, and other necessary items for the school should be purchased from this fund. Our school has more than 150 children, and a large amount of the grant provided by the department goes to cleaning toilets. We are giving ₹4,000 to those who clean toilets every month.

The funds are woefully insufficient. We are using our own money for school maintenance every month. The government should increase the school grant," urged the Vice Principal of a Karnataka Public School (KPS) in Bengaluru.

Even these meagre funds are often neither released fully nor on time. For instance, in the recently concluded fiscal of 2024-25, DSEL had earmarked ₹114.59 crore for the maintenance of 42,136 government schools, but only released ₹45.15 crore, in two installments on September 3, 2024 and on February 3, 2025.

Lack of labour

School managements in rural areas also complain of a lack of labour available to clean toilets. "There are no people available to clean toilets in rural areas. Therefore, we have to bring cleaners from urban areas. We have to pay at least ₹500 to ₹750 for cleaning the toilet once. Due to this, it is difficult to clean the toilets every day. Although we have flagged this with both the Department and the local gram panchayat, it has not been of any use," said a teacher at a government school in Bengaluru rural district.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 22, 1975

Kolar Strike Enters its 22nd Day

Kolar Gold Fields, April 21: The strike by the workers of the Bharat Gold Mines Limited, demanding wage revision, has entered its 22nd day today. The deadlock continues, in spite of the efforts by the Central conciliatory machinery during the last week, and there is no sign of any settlement.

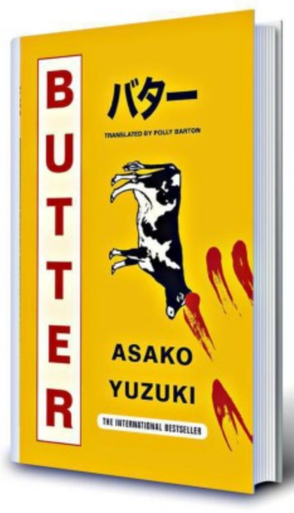
According to a management spokesman, the attendance by the supervisory and clerical staff has risen to 80 per cent. The proposed padayatra by the workers to Bangalore, scheduled to take place today, has been postponed by a day.

'Remove Discrimination Based on Religion'

Bangalore, April 21: Speakers at a public meeting held at the St Francis Xavier's Cathedral here yesterday complained that Christians of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes origin were discriminated in Karnataka on the basis of religion.

The meeting, organised by the Catholic Association of Bangalore, marked the end of a week of prayer for the welfare of Christians of Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes origin.

Mr. K. H. Patil. KPCC President, who presided, shared the feelings of the Christians for their Harijan brethren and promised to do whatever he could. He said the Prime Minister was seized of the matter.



Twist in the tale Author Asako Yuzuki during her visit to Bengaluru. K BHAGYA PRAKASH / SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Fame by chance

Japanese author Asako Yuzuki talks about her acclaimed novel *Butter* and her first trip to India

Ruth Dhanaraj

Japanese novelist Asako Yuzuki was one of the panellists at the recently concluded Alliance Literary Festival in Bengaluru. Speaking with the aid of a translator, Asako shared some of her observations about writing, India and interpersonal relationships.

Perhaps best known for *Butter*, Asaka says she was surprised by the popularity it garnered. "I have written a lot of other books and I have no idea why *Butter* caught the limelight," says Asako, adding that she lacks the skills to promote herself or market her work. "When I sent off the first chapter to Harper Collins I had no idea they would pick it up. Personally, I feel *The Nile Perch Women's Club* was better by far."

Her reticence is understandable – a quick glance at her Wikipedia page shows awards seem to pass her by, having been nominated numerous times, but winning only occasionally.

Talking about why she likes *The Nile Perch Women's Club,* Asako says, "The book required quite a bit of effort on my part and it talks about the meaningful relationships between women of different ages and classes. *The Nile Perch Women's Club* is about an unusual friendship between an older woman and a younger one."

However, Asako is candid in admitting that it did not do well in Japan as it went against the traditional norms of society there where women occupy a submissive role. Though many cultivate them, close friendships between women seem to be frowned upon, leaving those who do enjoy them tight-lipped about their companionships, she says, adding, "I am hopeful that if translated into English, *The Nile Perch Women's Club* would become well-known in other parts of the world."

Though most of her works revolve around interpersonal relationships, Asako says it is not because of a penchant for human psychology. "I am an ardent fan of French Literature and I am intrigued by how authors such as Balzac crafted their stories; it was like reading letters from that era, encompassing life, culture and society."

"They were ahead of their times with their style and depiction. And much like letters, those works too, shone a light on human relationships," she adds.

Screen time

Some of Asako's works have been adapted for radio and the screen, most notably *The Many Faces of Ito* which came out as a comedy series on Netflix in 2017. As an author who feels her writing has not gained recognition in her homeland, Asako believes that times are slowly changing which is why there are takers for a pictorial representation on digital media of her books.

And while many authors may have reservations about their work being modified for the screen, Asako says, "I agonise over writing dialogues; constantly honing them so they sound true-to-life for readers and when scriptwriters don't change them too much or keep their gist, it feels all the lonely nights of writing are worth it."

By the book

Asako says she is always more touched than flattered, when she finds her books are read in India or anywhere in the world. "Readers either resonate with the characters or wonder if that is how the world is and speculate if similar people walk among them."

Pleasantly surprised by the huge turnout for a literary event, Asako feels, "the reach of books is far greater than we realise and they are harbingers of cross culture," and adds that as first-timer in the country, it seemed India was quite accepting of change.

She elaborates on her observation. "Even in the simple issue of clothing, it is wonderful to see Indian women have taken to wearing the sari and other traditional wear as well as Western-styled clothing on a daily basis," says the author who also enjoys reading Indian author Jhumpa Lahiri's books and essays.

Asako winds down our conversation with an observation she has made over the years, "Society will always pressurise women. It is up to us to accept that which will spur us to do better and disregard anything that else that limits us."

> The book required quite a bit of effort on my part and it talks about the meaningful relationships between women of different ages and classes. *The Nile Perch Women's Club* is about an unusual friendship between an older woman and a younger one.
>
> **ASAKO YUZUKI**
> Author

CITYBEATS

Gasps and giggles

APRIL 21 TO 27
Rambo Circus brings its spectacle to Bengaluru with thrilling new acts – laser shows, sky walking, giraffe cycles, and hilarious clown antics. Perfect for families, this 90-minute show blends traditional Indian artistry with jaw-dropping modern performances.
At St. John's Auditorium, Bengaluru. Languages: English/Hindi/Kannada. Tickets on BookMyShow.

Bridging generations

APRIL 26 AND 27
Indian Music Experience museum's new Learning Centre in Malleshwaram launches with 'Artful Bonds' - weekend workshops where grandparents and children collaborate through painting, music, and theatre.
From 12pm to 7pm at Galaxy Club, Malleshwaram. Registration: ₹1,500 per duo. Contact: 9591332701.

Worlds through words

APRIL 26
Join The Bangalore Writers Workshop Short Story Community for a deep-dive into *Fire Rain* from Banu Mushtaq's *Heart Lamp* (translated by Deepa Bhasthi). This two-hour session explores narrative craft, cultural context, and literary merit.
From 3.30pm to 5.30pm at Atta Galatta, Indiranagar. Tickets at ₹1,250 (BookMyShow)

Art across dimensions

Sreemathy Bhat

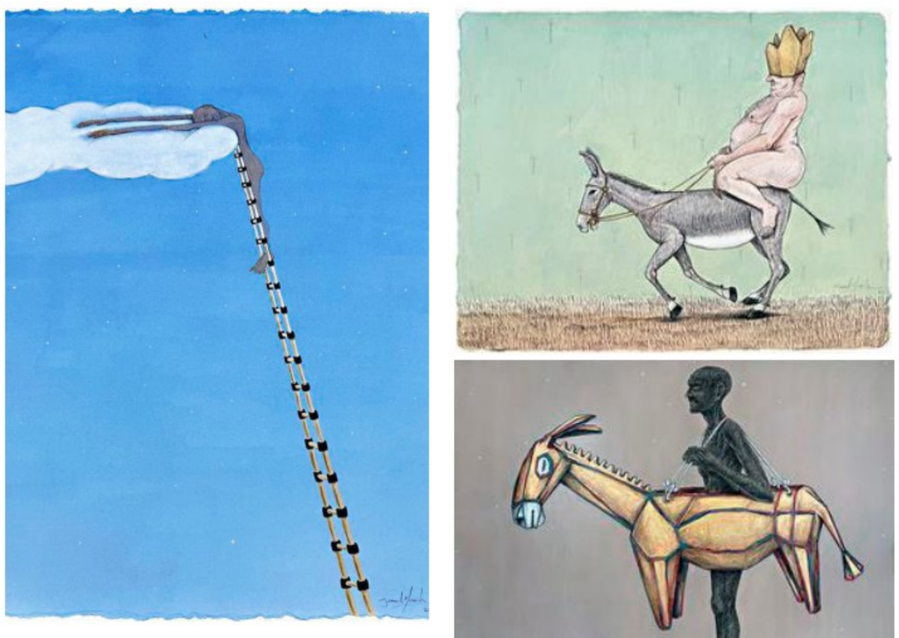
Every individual is engaged in activities to move forward in life; an ongoing stunt to achieve something. "That is Kartab for you," says artist Gurmeet Marwah, who is presenting his first solo exhibition in the city. As Gurmeet puts it, the show delves into the many levels or angles of *kartab,* a Hindi word that means act, deed, or undertaking, as it plays out in everyday life.

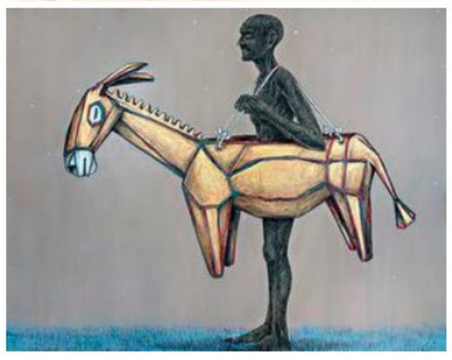
Gurmeet's artistic exploration is driven by this idea or concept of human nature, where there is more to every act than what is visible on the surface.

"Everyone is involved in *kartab*, hoping to gain something. Then we strive to balance and maintain it. We are constantly in that loop," he says.

Gurmeet says his artworks are an exploration of this concept, and is in keeping with his belief that an idea should not be confined to a single dimension, whilst also upholding minimalism.

"When I think of an idea, I want to explore its possibilities. I don't understand the point of limiting it. Painting is the simplest form of expression, but I enjoy going beyond it," says Gurmeet, explaining how he always visualises a concept from different angles and perspectives.





Beyond the obvious Art from Kartab by Gurmeet Marwah. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Animals feature regularly in Gurmeet's works – goats, donkeys, monkeys, owls and frogs – both in paintings and woodcuts. "Local slang in conversations inspired me to use animals as my subjects. For instance, words such as *gadha* (donkey) and *bakhra* (goat) are often part of casual conversations, so I began using them in my work. It is not symbolic; it is just the language I speak and have grown up with," says the Delhi-based artist.

Talking about how some of his recent works portray humanoid figures, Gurmeet says it is symbolic of a subject he wants to present, and the depiction happened incidentally.

What distinguishes Gurmeet's work is the simplicity, and his knack of presenting ideas important to him without complexities. In this exhibition, Gurmeet has presented artworks built on everyday experiences, his middle-class upbringing, hierarchies, and societal structures.

"Many things influence our lives, and they can be personal, societal, or political. Everyone has a perspective or opinion on different topics and they choose to express them in their own way. I do it in the language I know, which is visual art."

Describing the choice of titles for his works, he says it is a way to connect with the audience. "It is a way of directing the viewer toward what I'm trying to say without overloading them with information."

His artworks often feature subtle, almost monochromatic backgrounds, bringing focus to a central object or figure that carries the message.

Kartab by Gurmeet Marwah is on at Artisera in Indiranagar, till May 4.

Come hither Dali and Gala seduce the senses. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Dali and Gala
Museum Road
Ph: 8884244988
Hits: Disco porn cocktail
Misses: Midnight snack cocktail
Cost: ₹2,000 for two

Cocktails, art and adultery

Anagha Maareesha

EATING OUT

Outside, Church Street and Museum Road are buzzing with energy. Inside the bar I am visiting are dim red lights, rotating giant heads, mysterious sculptures, and eyes peering at me from all corners, something out of *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*. Everything feels surreal to say the least. The newly opened Dali and Gala is Salvador Dali's dreams come to life. Moustaches, melting clocks and phallic symbolism included.

Dali and Gala is situated where the beloved neighbourhood bar, Tavern used to be. It is themed around surrealism, adultery and romance. The love story of Spanish artist Salvador Dali and his muse, lover, and eventually wife, Gala is one fraught with drama, passion and art.

Both Dali and Gala are prominently featured through all the artworks. The art is designed by Siddharth Kerkar, who also owns Museum of Goa, Sopo, and Room One. The other members of the founding team, Vipin Raman, Jatin Hukkeri and Jayesh Hukkeri come from hospitality and architecture backgrounds.

The space

Experience manager Rohit Venkatraman takes us on a tour. The Rose Room is a corner that is themed around romance, with canvases painted by renowned artist Subodh Kerkar. The character portraits are done in his signature contemporary style.

While the Animal Room pays homage to Dali's obsession with creating sculptures with animals, the centrepiece is the Eye Bar. The entire bar counter is made of a long sheet of beaten copper. The sheet is hand beaten and features 50 eye motifs. Behind the bar, a set of six large heads rotate slowly. Designed in an over-the-top absurdist style, they are made of disco balls, eyes (a repeated motif through the bar), and moustaches.

The drinks and food

The art and decor of Dali and Gala are the scene stealers, but the food and drinks back it up. The cocktail menu is Tequila- and mezcal-forward. Phone sex is a reference to Dali's work called Lobster Telephone (1936), and Gala Negroni is a mix of chocolate bitters and anejo Tequila.

Midnight snack is a drink made of Tequila, guava, jalapeno, saline, and 'Dali's sperm'. Yes, you read that right. We are equally surprised when the drink is served with a sperm-shaped gelatine garnish. I am not sure how I feel about this one!

The food menu is short and sweet. The dishes are Burmese, I like this unique choice of cuisine.

We try the cold plates. Raw mango on crack is a winner: crackers made with black rice, topped with a refreshing and spicy raw mango salad. Another variation of the same dish is the avocado and tender coconut on crack. No fuss chickpea fritters are made with Burmese tofu, a kind of tofu made with chickpeas instead of soybeans. They are creamy and moreish. The in-house parmesan and truffle popcorn gets a special mention because of the flavours.

If you look past the shock value and the kinky vibes, the atmosphere is magnetic. Each corner is packed with paintings, installations and sculptures that are custom-made especially for the space. The cocktails are innovative and trendy. The food is delicious. Dali and Gala might be the complete package... no pun intended.

Not planning legal steps against accused actor: complainant

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

Vincy Aloshious

Actor Vincy Aloshious said on Monday that she has no plans to initiate legal measures against her co-star Shine Tom Chacko against whom she had raised allegations of misbehaviour and suspected drug abuse on the set of movie *Soothravakyam*.

"This has been my stance from the beginning," she told mediapersons after appearing before the Internal Complaints Committee (ICC) of the movie. Mr. Chacko also appeared before the committee and submitted his version on the complaint lodged against him. "Besides collecting our personal statements, the committee also heard us together," she said.

The actor said the ICC will hand over their statements before the monitoring committee led by the Kerala Film Chamber of Commerce. The 29-member body was formed based on the Kerala High Court's directive to film production houses to form ICCs under the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013.

Ms. Aloshious said that she was pained by the suspected leak of her complaint to the media. "I had blamed Saji Nanthiyattu, general secretary of Kerala Film Chamber of Commerce, for the leak based on the information provided by a television news channel. However, it later emerged that it was not true, she said.

She said she was satisfied with the steps taken by the chamber and the film's IC on her complaint.

Meanwhile, the Kochi City police seemed far from convinced about actor Shine Tom Chacko's reasoning for fleeing a hotel in the city during an inspection by the city police's District Anti-Narcotics Special Action Force (DANSAF) on April 16 night.

During the interrogation on Saturday, the actor told the police that he had fled as he feared for his life since he had mistaken the police personnel for goons.

"If that was the case, he could have contacted the police or approached us later. But that did not happen. We are verifying it as part of the investigation and further information is also being sought," Putta Vimaladitya, District Police Chief (Kochi City), told presspersons on Monday.

Mr. Chacko was arrested on Saturday under various sections of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita. He was released on bail later.

Rahul urges Revanth to enact Rohith Vemula Act

It is a shame that millions of Dalit, Adivasi and OBC students face brutal discrimination in our educational system even today, says Rahul Gandhi in a letter addressed to the Telangana CM

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Stark reminder: A banner of Rohith Vemula at Hyderabad University's main gate. NAGARA GOPAL

The former Congress president and Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, Rahul Gandhi urged Telangana Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy to enact the Rohith Vemula Act "so that no child of India has to face what B.R. Ambedkar, Rohith Vemula and a million others have had to endure".

In a letter addressed to the Chief Minister, Mr. Gandhi said, "It is a shame that even today, millions of students from Dalit, Adivasi and OBC communities have to face such brutal discrimination."

Various sections in Telangana and Andhra Pradesh have been demanding enactment of the Act after Rohith Vemula, a Dalit scholar at the University of Hyderabad, ended his life in January 2016. This was one of the key demands during the protest held by the university's students after Rohith's death. A few days ago, Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah promised that the government would enact the Act in Karnataka to eliminate caste- and identity-based discrimination in educational institutions. Mr. Siddaramaiah had announced this in response to Mr. Gandhi's request.

Mr. Gandhi cited Dr. Ambedkar's description of his experience in school: "I knew I was an untouchable, and that untouchables were subjected to certain indignities and discrimination. For instance, I knew that in school I could not sit in the midst of my classmates according to my rank, but that I was to sit in a corner by myself."

Mr. Gandhi added that the Telangana Chief Minister would agree that what Dr. Ambedkar faced was shameful and should not be endured by any child and the murder of bright young people like Rohith Vemula, Payal Tadvi and Darshan Solanki is not acceptable.

"It is time to put a firm end to this," he said.

Telangana's Adilabad records 43.7°C

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

Heatwave conditions gripped Telangana on Sunday as 31 out of 33 districts recorded maximum temperatures above 40°C.

According to data from the Telangana Development Planning Society, Adilabad was the hottest place in the State, logging a scorching 43.7°C. Close behind were Kumaram Bheem Asifabad at 43.4°C, Jagtial at 43.1°C, Kamareddy at 43°C, and Karimnagar at 42.9°C. Mancherial, Nizamabad, Nirmal, Medak, Rajanna Sircilla, and Peddapalli recorded temperatures ranging from 42.2°C to 42.9°C. A total of 20 districts recorded maximum temperatures between 40°C and 42°C. Urban pockets weren't spared either. Medchal Malkajgiri recorded 41.6°C, while Hyderabad touched 40.6°C.

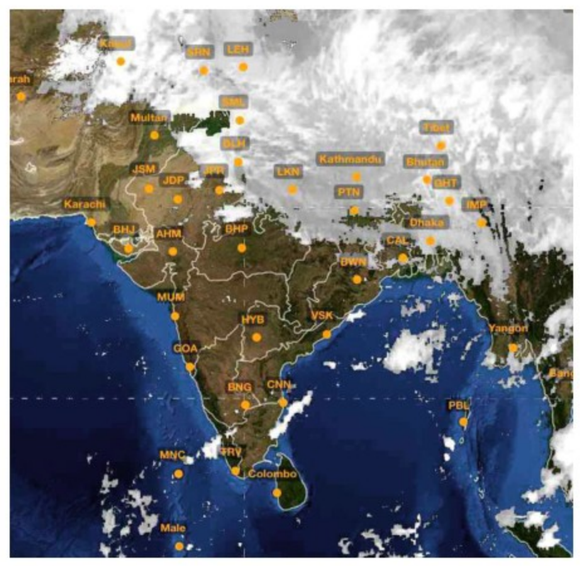
Thunderstorm alert

Amid soaring temperatures, the India Meteorological Department (IMD) on Monday has issued a thunderstorm alert to eight districts for Tuesday. Thunderstorms accompanied by lightning and gusty winds are expected at isolated places in Bhadradri Kothagudem, Khammam, Nalgonda, Suryapet, Mahabubabad, Nagarkurnool, Narayanpet, and Jogulamba Gadwal.

For Hyderabad and surrounding areas, the IMD has forecast a partly cloudy sky with the possibility of light rain or thundershowers accompanied by gusty winds over the next 24 hours. The maximum and minimum temperatures in the city are likely to hover around 39°C and 26°C.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Tuesday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Arunachal Pradesh, Assam and Meghalaya. Thunderstorm with lightning/gusty winds likely at isolated places over Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Odisha, Chhattisgarh, coastal Andhra Pradesh, Yanam, Rayalaseema, Karnataka, Kerala and Mahe

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	59	29.9	21.6	Kozhikode	—	37.0	28.2
Ahmedabad	—	40.7	25.7	Kurnool	4	39.5	25.2
Aizawl	—	31.4	21.5	Lucknow	—	41.4	27.0
Allahabad	—	44.3	25.4	Madurai	—	39.1	27.5
Bengaluru	0.1	33.4	20.8	Mangaluru	—	34.0	25.4
Bhopal	—	40.1	24.6	Mumbai	—	33.6	25.1
Bhubaneswar	—	36.0	28.4	Mysuru	—	—	—
Chandigarh	—	38.0	23.4	New Delhi	—	41.3	26.2
Chennai	—	36.2	28.4	Patna	—	39.0	28.6
Coimbatore	—	37.1	25.2	Port Blair	2	31.1	25.4
Dehradun	—	37.0	20.7	Puducherry	—	35.2	28.2
Gangtok	—	21.5	16.2	Pune	—	42.0	24.6
Goa	—	36.0	28.0	Raipur	—	43.7	28.4
Guwahati	15	32.5	22.5	Ranchi	—	38.6	24.6
Hubballi	—	37.0	24.0	Shillong	11	23.5	15.0
Hyderabad	—	38.6	25.9	Shimla	0.4	30.2	16.9
Imphal	2.2	27.6	19.9	Srinagar	8	19.4	7.6
Jaipur	—	39.0	27.7	Thiruvananthapuram	—	34.2	27.6
Kochi	—	33.2	27.2	Tiruchi	—	39.1	28.4
Kohima	2	20.6	15.4	Vijayawada	—	39.3	28.2
Kolkata	—	36.4	27.0	Visakhapatnam	—	34.4	28.8

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	.42	.26	.6	190	140	
Bengaluru	—	.17	.39	143	128	
Chennai	5	4	.35	46	84	
Delhi	.17	.96	.62	182	294	
Hyderabad	.12	.14	.43	103	85	
Kolkata	6	.19	.22	73	76	
Lucknow	7	.56	.48	161	158	
Mumbai	—	—	146	77	99	
Pune	6	.48	.19	151	121	
Visakhapatnam	.10	.43	9	74	127	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Sri Ganganagar, Rajasthan recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 321 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Rupnagar, Punjab recorded a healthy AQI score of 15

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Government of Karnataka
DEPARTMENT OF YOUTH EMPOWERMENT AND SPORTS
State Youth Centre, Nrupathunga Road, Bengaluru - 560001.
Tel : 080-22215601, 22211246, Fax: 080 22215602

No: DYES/K.I/72/2023-24 Date: 21.04.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Through E-Procurement Portal Only)

Subject: The Deputy Director (Admn), Department of Youth Empowerment and Sports, State Youth Centre, Nrupathunga Road, Bangalore-560 001, KARNATAKA INDIA invites Tender for Supply of food to Khelo India State Excellence Center at Sri Jayaprakasha Narayana youth center, Vidyanagar Bangalore.(15 days Short term 2nd Call).
Work Details : Supply of food to Khelo India State Excellence Center at Sri Jayaprakash Narayana youth center. Vidyanagar Bangalore. Tender Amount : **Rs. 140.40 Lakhs** EMD : **Rs 2,16,600.00.**
(a) Last Date and Time for Submission of Tender Documents through E-Procurement Portal: **05.05.2025 time 16.00 Hrs, (b)** Opening of technical bid : **06.05.2025 time 16.30 Hrs. (c)** Opening of Commercial Offers: will be intimated
The Tender shall be submitted through e-Procurement Portal **(https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** Vendors need to register in the e-Procurement Portal to submit their bids online. The tender document can be viewed free of cost from the e-Procurement Portal. Additional information may be obtained during office hours at the above mentioned Address.

Sd/-
Deputy Director (Admin)
Dept. of Youth Empowerment and Sports
(Tender Inviting Authority)
DIPR/CP/282/Zen/2025-26

Your feedback will keep us Cleaner, Sharper and Bolder
Call our toll-free number **1800 102 1878**
Or write to us at **customercare@thehindu.co.in**
Scan the QR code to register your feedback
THE HINDU · thehindu businessline · FRONTLINE · SPORTSTAR · Young World · THE HINDU

ನಗರಸಭೆ ಕಾರ್ಯಾಲಯ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ
ಜೋಸ್ಟ್ ಬಾಕ್ಸ್ ನಂ. 19, ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ – 587103, ರಾಜ್ಯ : ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ, ದೂರವಾಣಿ : 08354 – 235 011,
ಇಮೇಲ್: itstaff_ulb_bagalkote@yahoo.co.in
ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್: www.bagalkotecity.gov.in

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ : ನ.ಸ.ಬಾ./ಲೋ.ವಿ/ಟೆಂಡರ್/2024–25/76 ದಿನಾಂಕ : 21–04–2025

ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಮುಂದೂಡಿದ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ
(ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಮಾತ್ರ)

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ ಆದ್ಯಾದೇಶ 1999, ನಿಯಮಾವಳಿಗಳು 2000 ರಂತೆ ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ ನಗರಸಭೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಸನ್ 2020–21, 2021–22 ಹಾಗೂ 2022–23 ನೇ ಸಾಲಿನ 15ನೇ ಹಣಕಾಸು ಆಯೋಗದ ಅನುದಾನ ಹಾಗೂ ಸನ್ 2019–20 ರಿಂದ 2022–23 ರವರೆಗಿನ ಎಸ್.ಎಫ್.ಸಿ. ಉಳಿತಾಯ ಮೊತ್ತದಡಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕೆಳಗೆ ನಮೂದಿಸಿದ ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳಿಗೆ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರ ಲೋಕೋಪಯೋಗಿ ಇಲಾಖೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ನೊಂದಾಯಿತ ಹಾಗೂ ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸರ್ಕಾರದ ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್‌ನಲ್ಲಿ ನೋಂದಾಯಿತ ಅರ್ಹ ಅಧಿಕೃತ ಗುತ್ತಿಗೆದಾರರಿಂದ ಸ್ಟ್ಯಾಂಡರ್ಡ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಡಾಕ್ಯುಮೆಂಟ್ ಕೆ.ಡಬ್ಲ್ಯೂ. – 1 & 2 ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಸಂಗ್ರಹಣೆಗಳಲ್ಲಿ ಪಾರದರ್ಶಕತೆ (**ತಿದ್ದುಪಡಿ**) **ಅಧಿನಿಯಮ 2016 ಗೆಜೆಟ್ ಅಧಿಸೂಚನೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ : 29–06–2017** ರನ್ವಯ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ್ನು ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ವಿವರ ಕೆಳಗಿನಂತಿರುತ್ತದೆ.

1) DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT33379, 2) DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT33381, 3) DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT33382, 4) DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT33383, 5) DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT33384, 6) DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT33385, 7) DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT33386, 8) DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT33387, 9) DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT36673, 10) DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT36674, 11) DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT36675, 12) DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT36676, 13) DMA/2024-25/OW/WORK_INDENT36677.

ಹೀಗೆ ರೂ. : **169.70** ಲಕ್ಷದ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿ ಇರುತ್ತದೆ.

1) Last Date for Submission of Bid through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Before : 29-04-2025 at 16.30 hours, 2) Opening of Technical Bid on or After : 02-05-2025 at 11.30 a.m., 3) Opening of Financial Bid is on or After : 03-05-2025 at 11.30 a.m.

ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ಮಾಹಿತಿಗಾಗಿ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ತಾಂತ್ರಿಕ ವಿಭಾಗದಲ್ಲಿ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಬಹುದಾಗಿದೆ.

ಸಹಿ/– ಅಧ್ಯಕ್ಷರು, ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ.
ಸಹಿ/– ಪೌರಾಯುಕ್ತರು, ನಗರಸಭೆ, ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ.
ಡಿಐಪಿಆರ್/ಬಾಗಲಕೋಟೆ/27/ಮಗಪಾಲ್/2025–26

ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆ
DMA/2024-25/WORK INDENT NO.38223, 38222, 38221, 38195, 36393 ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19–04–2025

ಅಲ್ಪಾವಧಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ E-PROCUREMENT OF KARNATAKA

ಮಂಗಳೂರು ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆ ವ್ಯಾಪ್ತಿಯ ಪ್ರೀಮಿಯಂ ಎಫ್.ಎ.ಆರ್. ನಿಧಿ ಹಾಗೂ ಸಾಮಾನ್ಯ ನಿಧಿಯಲ್ಲಿ ಈ ಕಛೇರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **DMA/2024-25/WORK INDENT NO.38223, 38222, 38221, 38195, 36393** ಗಳಿಗೆ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. 5 ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗಳ ಒಟ್ಟು ಮೊತ್ತ **ರೂಪಾಯಿ 414.11 ಲಕ್ಷ** ಗಳಾಗಿರುತ್ತದೆ. ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ **ದಿನಾಂಕ: 29–04–2025** ಮತ್ತು **06–05–2025** ಅಪರಾಹ್ನ 4.00 ಗಂಟೆ. ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರವನ್ನು ಇ–ಪ್ರೊಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಪೋರ್ಟಲ್ **kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು.

ಸಹಿ/– ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು, ಮಹಾನಗರಪಾಲಿಕೆ, ಮಂಗಳೂರು
DIPR/MNG/KSMCA/94/25-26 dt: 21.04.2025

KARNATAKA NEERAVARI NIGAM LIMITED
(A Government of Karnataka Enterprise)
Office of The Executive Engineer, KNNL, U.T.P. Division
Shivamogga. Phone No.: 08182-254832

1. No.EE/UTPDN/SMG/KNNL/PB-3/T.N.No.02/2025-26 Dated:19.04.2025. **2.** No.EE/UTPDN/SMG/KNNL/PB-3/T.N.No.03/2025-26 Dated:19.04.2025.

Short-Term Tender Notification
(Through KPP Portal only)

On Behalf of the Managing Director, KNNL, Bengaluru, the Under signed invites tender Through e- portal system from Eligible contractors coming Under Head of Account 4701 Upper Tunga Project

1) Apprx. Amount put to tender as per estimation is Rs 53.34 & 172.40 lakhs (Excluding GST) **2)** Last date for questions/clarifications regarding the tender: 24-04-2025 upto 5.30 p.m **3)** Date for Submission of filled tenders from: 19-04-2025 to 29-04-2025 to 5.30 P.M.

Further details on date of opening the Tender /Detail of work E.M.D. Amount/Terms and Conditions of the tender/Class of Contractor, Etc, can be obtained in the Tender Notification or from the office of the Under signed during office hours or in website Https:\\kppp. Karanataka.Gov.in for further details the office of the Undersigned can be contacted during office hours on phone No. 08182-254832 Information can be obtained through https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in/

Sd/- Executive Engineer, KNNL,U.T.P., Division, Shivamogga
DIPR/smg/No.97/04/ksmca/25-26/103

AMARAVATI DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LIMITED (ADCL)
54-15-1, Venkateswara Nagar, Ring Road, Vijayawada, NTR Dist, A.P-520008.
Email: ccdmc.amaravati@gmail.com CIN Number : U93000AP2015SGC105535

NIT No. 212/ADCL/IPD/2025(2nd Call) Dated: 21.04.2025

Request for Proposal Notice

Request for Proposal for Appointment of Consultant for Preparation of Detailed Project Report (DPR) for Major Arterial Roads (Elevated Corridor) in Amaravati Capital City, Andhra Pradesh. The RFP can be downloaded from the AP e-procurement portal from **22.04.2025 to 06.05.2025 up to 15.30 Hrs.** The due date for submission of the Bid is **06.05.2025 up to 16.00 Hrs,** The Technical Bid opening is on **06.05.2025 @16.30 Hrs.** For further details, please refer to **www.apeprocurement.gov.in** and **www.adcl.in**

Sd/- Chairperson and Managing Director. ADCL. Vijayawada.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru-560009.

Sl No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender EMD (In Rs.)	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1	South-West-2	BWSSB/EE(SW-2)/TO/PB/77/2025-26 Date: 21.04.2025 (6th Call)	**Rs. 91,51,911/-** **Rs. 1,83,100/-**	28.04.2025 upto 5.00 PM	02.05.2025 After 10.30 AM
2		BWSSB/EE(SW-2)/TO/PB/77/2025-26 Date: 21.04.2025 (5th Call)	**Rs. 50,70,705/-** **Rs. 1,01,500/-**		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South-West-2)

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/300/Zen/2025-26

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಸ್ತುಪ್ರದರ್ಶನ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ
ದೊಡ್ಡಕೆರೆ ಮೈದಾನ, ಇಂದಿರಾನಗರ, ಮೈಸೂರು–570010.
ದೂರವಾಣಿ (ಕಛೇರಿ): 0821–2523626, ಇಮೇಲ್: exhibitionauthority@gmail.com

ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: ಕವಪ್ರಾ/ಮುಕಾನಿ/**2024–25** ದಿನಾಂಕ: 19.04.2025

ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಸ್ತುಪ್ರದರ್ಶನ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರದ ಆವರಣವನ್ನು ಅಭಿವೃದ್ಧಿಗೊಳಿಸುವ ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಗೆ "ಇ" ಪ್ರಕ್ಯೂರ್‌ಮೆಂಟ್ ಮುಖಾಂತರ ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಆಹ್ವಾನಿಸಲಾಗಿದೆ. ಸದರಿ ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ವಿವರಗಳು ಈ ಕೆಳಕಂಡಂತ್ತಿದೆ.

ಕ್ರಸಂ.	ಕಾಮಗಾರಿಯ ಹೆಸರು	ಟೆಂಡರ್‌ನ ಮೊತ್ತ	ಟೆಂಡರ್ ಸಲ್ಲಿಸಲು ಕೊನೆಯ ದಿನಾಂಕ
1.	Development of Concrete Road around Central Ball Fountain Circle inside Karnataka Exhibition Authority Mysuru.	ರೂ.84,63,911=68/–	03.05.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 05:00 ಗಂಟೆ
2.	Construction of Kitchen Block, Performance area Flooring and Planter Boxes inside A-Block area and Construction of Concrete Drain and Deck Slab near Central ball Fountain Circle at Karnataka Exhibition Authority Premises, Mysuru.	ರೂ.84,63,668=92/–	05.05.2025 ಸಂಜೆ 04:00 ಗಂಟೆ

ಸದರಿ ವಿಷಯಕ್ಕೆ ಸಂಬಂಧಿಸಿದಂತೆ ಹೆಚ್ಚಿನ ವಿವರಗಳು ಬೇಕಾಗಿದ್ದಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿ ವೇಳೆಯಲ್ಲಿ ಕಛೇರಿಯ ಸಹಾಯಕ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು (ಸಿವಿಲ್), ರವರನ್ನು ಸಂಪರ್ಕಿಸಿ ಹಾಗೂ ವೆಬ್‌ಸೈಟ್ **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** ನಲ್ಲಿ ಮಾಹಿತಿ ಪಡೆಯಬಹುದು ಎಂದು ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಕೋರಿದೆ.

ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ಸಂಖ್ಯೆ: **9900568915/7892920878**
ಇ–ಮೇಲ್ : **exhibitionauthority@gmail.com**

ಸಹಿ/–
ಸಹಾಯಕ ಕಾರ್ಯಪಾಲಕ ಅಭಿಯಂತರರು
ಕರ್ನಾಟಕ ವಸ್ತುಪ್ರದರ್ಶನ ಪ್ರಾಧಿಕಾರ, ಮೈಸೂರು.
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PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, V Byregowda R/o Bangalore, Karnataka have changed my minor daughter name from Shinee Vaibhavi V B to Shirikha VB for all future purposes.

I, RON Siby Mathew Anjilivelil, S/O: Siby Mathew, R/O: No 5, Srinivasa Reddy LYT Behind Canara Bank, Begur, Blr, 560068, Have Changed My Name As Ron Siby Mathew Vide Afdvt Dtd on 21/04/2025

I, B Bhavani W/O, B Sathyanarayana R/o Flat No: 302, Swastik Apartments, Sri Datta Nagar, Kanchanbagh, Hyderabad ,Telangana Pin:500058 have changed my name to Venkata Bhawani.

I, S K Akram S/o. Abdul Kareem R/at No.47, 5th Main, Ganganagar Extension, R.T.Nagar Post, Bengaluru-560032 have changed my name to Abdul Sattar vide Affidavit dated 18.04.2025 sworn before Notary Sivakumara.M.N., Bengaluru.

I, DEEPTHI Nagaraj Reddy, W/o M. Nagaraj Reddy, R/at No.832, 2nd Main, HAL 3rd Stage, Bangalore-560075, have changed my name from Deepthi Venkataswamy alias Deepthi Nagaraj to Deepthi Nagaraj Reddy vide affidavit dated 21-04-2025 sworn before Notary K.V.Mani, B'luru.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF MS. ANU GROVER BALIGA, LD. DISTRICT JUDGE (COMMERCIAL-COURT-04), SOUTH-EAST DISTRICT ROOM NO.21, SAKET COURTS, NEW DELHI.
SUIT NO:-CS/COMM/2843/2024
M/s CONVERGIA DIGITAL EDUCATION PVT LTD.
V/s .....Plaintiff
EDUGEETHA LEARNING SOLUTION PVT LTD & ORS.
.....Defendant

To,
1. EDUGEETHA LEARNING SOLUTIONS PVT LTD. THROUGH ITS DIRECTOR MR S SUNIL KUMAR 274, 1" B CROSS, 9th MAIN, BEML LAYOUT, 5th STAGE, NEAR CRAZY PARK, RAJA RAJESHWARI NAGAR, BANGALORE-560098, KARNATAKA
ALSO AT : 132, GROUND FLOOR, MIG, 1" MAIN, 2nd CROSS 707 KHB, YELAHANKA NEW TOWN, BANGALORE-560064, KARNATKA
2. MOUNT BLUE HIGH SCHOOL, NEAR SHANI MAHATMA TEMPLE, MADHURANYAR, VILLAGE VARTHUR, BANGALORE-560087, KARNATAKA

WHEREAS you are intentionally evading service of summons it is hereby notified that if you shall not defend the case on the 04.06.2025 the day fixed for the final disposal, it will be heard and determined ex-parte. Given under my hand and the seal of the Court, this 08.04.2025.

Seal
LD. DISTRICT JUDGE (COMMERCIAL-COURT-04), SOUTH-EAST DISTRICT ROOM NO.21, SAKET COURTS, NEW DELHI.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

CHANGE OF NAME

I, **RIDDHI P CHOPRA**, R/at #201, 3rd Floor, Jineshwar Tranquil, #23, K R Sindhya Road, Opp. Banana Club, Basavanagudi, Bengaluru-560 004 do hereby declare that I have changed my name from **RIDDHI PUSHPENDRA BHANDARI** to **RIDDHI P CHOPRA**, henceforth I shall be known and called as **RIDDHI P CHOPRA** for all purposes, vide affidavit dated 15-04-2025, sworn before Advocate and Notary **A. PRABHAKAR** at Bangalore.

I, MOHAMED AFSAR Syed Ali S/o Syed Ali born on 22/07/1983 Place Of Birth, Pendin, Kumbarpettai Tamilnadu Residing at 86/C Near Railway Gate Railway Station Road, Hosur, Krishnagiri, Tamilnadu 635109 (Shall Hence Forth Be Known As) Mohammed Afsar Syed Ali Saheb S/o Syed Ali Saheb

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF SUBORDINATE JUDGE SANKARI
I.A.No. 2/2022 in O.S.No. 111 / 2020
1.Rajeswari W/o R. Duraisamy,
Door No.11/82-Adidravidar Street, Kadayampatti, Edanganasalai Village, Sankari Taluk, Salem District.
2. Lakshmi W/o Sellamuthu,
Door No.13/396-119, Pazhakkararthottam, Mottur, Edanganasalai Village, Sankari Taluk, Salem District.
...Petitioners/Plaintiffs
Versus
D.Harishankar, S/o Duraisamy, The Manager Union Bank of India, Sri Sivanankareshwara Commercial Complex, Kodihalli, Ground floor, Sangam Main Road, Near KNS Circle, Kanakapura, Karnataka-562 117.
...22nd Respondent/22nd Defendant

NOTICE

That the petitioner has filed the above petition under section 5 of limitation Act and that the same stands posted to 10.06.2025. If you have any objection, you may appear before this court on 10.06.2025 in person or by pleader, at 10.30 A.M. failing which the petition will be heard and disposed in your absence.

(By order of the court)
K.KASILINGAM, B.A., B.L.,
Advocate,
72, Old Edapadi Road, Sankari-637301.

Landmark agreement

The accord on pathogen access and benefit sharing is path-breaking

After nearly three-and-a-half years and 13 rounds of meetings, member-states of the World Health Organization (WHO) have agreed on measures to prevent, prepare for and respond to pandemics. On April 16, the Intergovernmental Negotiating Body finalised a proposal for the WHO Pandemic Agreement. The draft, described as a "generational accord to make the world safer", is now ready to be adopted next month by the World Health Assembly. Though more limited in scope than the ambitious one first proposed by WHO, it is still a remarkable achievement considering the varied priorities and compulsions for the Global North and the developing countries, especially with the U.S. not a part of WHO since January. While the developed countries baulked on firm commitments to sharing diagnostics, treatments, vaccines and technology transfers, developing countries hesitated to commit to sharing pathogen samples and genome sequences without assured access to tests, treatments and vaccines developed using the shared material. The disagreements are reminiscent of how Indonesia turned the spotlight on the inequitable H5N1 sample sharing mechanism in the mid-2000s in the absence of equitable and affordable access to vaccines developed using its samples.

The first article that all countries agreed upon was the commitment to protect health-care workers better. The most remarkable achievement was in getting every country to agree on the pathogen access and benefit sharing system. Developing countries that share pathogen samples and genome sequence data are guaranteed to get access to any diagnostics, vaccines or treatments that are developed using the samples/data. Negotiations on how countries will share samples and vaccines/drugs are set to continue. Pharmaceutical companies have committed to donate 10% of their production to WHO and offer up to another 10% at affordable prices. The COVID-19 pandemic brought the inequitable vaccine distribution to the fore. Many developed countries stockpiled vaccines while many developing countries, especially those in Africa, were left waiting for vaccines. The case of vaccine manufacturers sharing the technology with developing countries during a pandemic has also been sorted out. The main debate centered around the conditions under which this transfer will happen. Countries have agreed that technology transfer will be on "mutually agreed terms", and not "voluntary" as pharma companies wanted it to be. According to the journal, *Nature*, besides "promoting equitable access to health products, the treaty underlines that countries should 'promote and otherwise facilitate or incentivise' the exchange of technology and know-how" that will enable developing countries to make their own vaccines.

Elusive truce

Russia must give up its maximalist position and end the war

The Trump administration's frustration over the lack of progress in diplomatic efforts to end the Ukraine war was evident in Secretary of State Marco Rubio's remarks in Paris last week. After talks with America's European allies, he warned that the U.S. would "move away" if there was no progress "within days". U.S. President Donald Trump appeared to endorse the comments. Despite Mr. Trump's campaign promise to end the war "within 24 hours", months into his presidency, he remains far from building a consensus on even a temporary ceasefire. If he expected the Russians to jump on a proposal for a ceasefire in return for some Ukrainian concessions, he has miscalculated. The U.S. has already ruled out NATO membership for Ukraine and declared it would not be part of any post-war security guarantees for Kyiv prior to direct negotiations with Russia. It also arm-twisted Ukraine into proposing a 30-day ceasefire. However, while Mr. Trump appears focused on an immediate cessation of hostilities, the Kremlin has insisted that any ceasefire deal must be part of a comprehensive peace agreement that addresses its core security concerns. The U.S. is reportedly circulating a new proposal to end the fighting – shared with European and Ukrainian officials, it has the U.S. prepared to recognise Crimea, which Russia annexed in 2014 following a contentious referendum, as Russian territory. The plan also takes NATO membership "off the table" for Ukraine and seeks to freeze the conflict along the front line, effectively leaving the territories Russia captured since the war began in 2022 in its hands. After responses from Ukraine and Europe, the U.S. plans to approach Moscow. But Russia has stuck to its maximalist positions, which include rejecting security guarantees for Ukraine and insisting on its demilitarisation.

Wars rarely end through maximalist positions. While Russia has made territorial gains, it has also paid a price. Ukraine, despite its apparent weakness on the battlefield, signals that it is ready to continue the fight, with western support. Europe has also made it clear that it will continue backing Ukraine – with or without American involvement. For any lasting peace in Ukraine, it is important to address Russia's legitimate security concerns. However, the Russian demands that Ukraine limit its defence partnership with its allies or accept restrictions on its military capabilities are untenable for any sovereign nation. So, Mr. Trump should continue to strive for common ground between all the parties – the U.S., Ukraine, Europe and Russia – for a durable peace, instead of appeasing just one power.

India, China at 75 — a time for strategy, not sentiment

Nirupama Rao

is a former Foreign Secretary

As India and China mark 75 years of diplomatic ties, we find ourselves not merely at a commemorative milestone but also at a pivotal juncture in Asian and global geopolitics. The relationship, once rooted in idealistic visions of Asian solidarity, has become a tightrope walk across a landscape defined by contested borders, strategic rivalry and deep mistrust. Yet, it is also a relationship layered with opportunities for cooperation, economic interdependence and a shared responsibility for regional stability.

The 'China lens', the challenge

At the heart of this complex engagement is the stark reality that China is today the single most influential external factor shaping India's foreign policy. From border infrastructure to trade diversification and defence cooperation, nearly every strategic decision India makes is filtered through the "China lens". It is a structural challenge – one that requires us to balance deterrence with dialogue, sovereignty with economic interdependence, and competition with calibrated coexistence.

The 1962 war remains a traumatic marker in our bilateral history, reinforced in 2020 by the deadly Galwan Valley clash, which reopened old wounds and catalysed a shift in India's China policy. No longer can engagement paper over our fundamental differences. The Line of Actual Control (LAC) remains tense, heavily militarised and vulnerable to miscalculation. Over 60,000 troops are now permanently deployed in Eastern Ladakh, while both countries continue to fortify infrastructure on their respective sides.

Yet, military vigilance is only one piece of the puzzle. India's trade imbalance with China touched almost $100 billion in 2024-25; yet, Beijing is one of India's largest trading partners. Despite efforts to ban Chinese apps and restrict certain investments, we remain economically entangled. Our dependence on Chinese components in sectors such as pharmaceuticals and electronics highlights a paradox: we deter at the border but depend on the marketplace. Full decoupling is neither feasible nor desirable in the short term.

This is why India's approach has evolved into what can best be described as "competitive coexistence". We seek to compete with China in defence, infrastructure and regional influence, while maintaining enough engagement given the constraints of economic decoupling. On platforms such as BRICS and the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation (SCO), India and China engage as equals. In the Quad (Australia, India, Japan, the U.S.), India partners with like-minded democracies to uphold a free and open Indo-Pacific. The key lies in maintaining agency and ensuring control over potentially adversarial situations. Our neighbourhood reflects the intensity of this competition. China's growing footprint in South Asia – from the Hambantota Port in Sri Lanka to the Pokhara Airport in Nepal and large infrastructure loans in the Maldives – has challenged India's traditional role as the regional anchor. While India has responded with development aid, defence cooperation, and connectivity projects, and demonstrating its effectiveness as first-responder in times of crisis, it must now go beyond reactive diplomacy to proactive, long-term engagement that wins hearts, not just headlines.

As India and China mark 75 years of bilateral ties, New Delhi and Beijing need to adopt a model of 'competitive coexistence', with military, diplomatic, and economic guardrails

The recent remarks made by Bangladesh's interim leader Mohammad Yunus in Beijing – highlighting India's northeast as landlocked – were diplomatically charged. Although geographically accurate, the setting and subtext have raised concerns in New Delhi. Comments such as these reinforce China's strategic framing and underline the urgency for India to close infrastructure gaps, build trust with neighbours, and present itself as an even more reliable and responsive regional partner. Influence today is as much about narratives as it is about roads and ports.

The America factor

India's position on China is further complicated by the return of Donald Trump to the White House. Mr. Trump's second term has revived unilateralism, weakened multilateralism, and sharpened U.S.-China rivalry. India may well find itself under pressure to align more closely with Washington, especially in defence cooperation and Indo-Pacific security. Yet, we must tread carefully. Strategic autonomy remains India's north star – and deeper ties with the U.S. must be balanced with the need to manage any boiling-over of antagonism with China.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi's remarks on the Lex Fridman podcast in March 2025 signalled a subtle recalibration. By evoking ancient India-China synergy and emphasising dialogue, he articulated a vision of "healthy competition" and mutual growth. While some see this as conciliatory, it is better understood as strategic storytelling – a message to Beijing that India is open to engagement, a signal to Washington of independent judgement, and a reassurance to domestic audiences of a steady hand at the helm.

China's response was positive. Foreign Ministry spokesperson Mao Ning and state media welcomed Mr. Modi's "pragmatic approach", reinforcing a rare moment of diplomatic alignment. Verification patrolling along the LAC resumed in January 2025, signalling tentative steps toward de-escalation. China has agreed to hold an early meeting of the Expert Level Mechanism on hydrological data-sharing on rivers, and discussions are underway to reopen the Kailash Mansarovar Yatra and restart direct flights. These may appear symbolic, but they indicate that both sides are testing waters for limited rapprochement – what one might call a thaw without illusions.

However, the underlying risks remain unchanged. The planned dam by China on the Yarlung Tsangpo (the Brahmaputra) near Arunachal Pradesh has rekindled concerns about ecological security and water weaponisation. India has no water-sharing treaty with China, and transparency remains low. The potential for mismanagement – or deliberate manipulation – of water flows presents a new dimension to the bilateral equation, one where sovereignty, environment, and mis-trust intersect in volatile ways.

The framework of a China policy

India's China policy must therefore rest on four pillars: military readiness, economic diversification, diplomatic engagement, and narrative control. We must deter without provoking, trade without depending, and ensure skilful negotiation to safeguard interests. This demands sharper strategic communication, faster execution of regional projects, and a foreign policy mindset that thinks in decades, not just headlines. As India's Foreign Secretary Vikram Misri recently said, the "three mutuals" – respect, sensitivity, and interest – must guide our way forward.

In a recent oped in *The Straits Times* (April 10, 2025), this writer had proposed that India and China embrace a model of "competitive coexistence" – not to downplay our rivalry, but to manage it responsibly. Asia can no longer rely solely on U.S. leadership in an era of global disruption. It needs a home-grown security architecture where India and China act as custodians of stability. For that, we must build guardrails – military, diplomatic, and economic – to prevent friction from becoming fire.

As we mark 75 years of bilateral ties, let us not be bound by nostalgia or ceremony. This is a moment for strategy, not sentiment. India's goal must be clear: to define its place in a world reshaped by flux, rivalry, and shifting alliances. China will remain a structural challenge – but it is also a mirror, forcing us to confront our capabilities, choices, and ambitions. In that mirror, we must see not a straitjacket, but an opportunity for India to lead.

(Adapted from the Gaston Sigur Memorial Lecture delivered by the writer at the Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University, Washington DC, on April 15, 2025)

New pathways for India's creative economy

Balakrishna Pisupati

is the Country Head of the United Nations Environment Programme, India, and a member of Team UN India

Few countries have a unique history of innovations and creativity that changed the world. Yet, India's tryst with creativity and innovation ranges from the arts to science, from metallurgy to medicine, from astronomy and much more. As India works towards becoming a $5 trillion economy, it needs to rejig its approach to innovations, supported by creativity at all levels.

Globally, in 2022, exports of creative services surged to $1.4 trillion, marking a 29% increase since 2017. Creative goods exports also experienced a 19% rise, reaching $713 billion. Collectively, the creative economy generates annual revenues exceeding $2 trillion and supports nearly 50 million jobs worldwide.

According to the United Nations Trade and Development (UNCTAD) report on the creative economy, Creative Economy Outlook 2024, three sectors are the main contributors of the creative economy (2022): software services (41.3%), research and development (30.7%), advertising, market research and architecture (15.5%).

India's creative economy has also demonstrated significant contributions. In 2019, creative goods and services exports totalled about $121 billion, with creative services accounting for nearly $100 billion. The design segment alone represented 87.5% of creative goods exports, while arts and crafts contributed around 9%.

As of 2024, India's creative industry is valued at $30 billion and employs about 8% of the country's working population. Creative exports grew by 20% in the previous year, generating more than $11 billion.

Creativity in creative economy

While investments into traditional creative economic sectors are booming in a country such as India, we still need to explore ways of being more creative and innovative to take the economic gains to new horizons, especially at the grass-root levels. This will ensure that such creations and innovations help local people. This will be a disruptive approach to promoting local economies. Research has shown that creativity can be segmented into four types: deliberate and emotional; deliberate and cognitive; spontaneous and emotional, and spontaneous and cognitive. Creativity can be endogenous – triggered by one's own thoughts or imagination or exogenous – that is externally induced. It can be manifested concurrently or only episodically such as in crises or extreme climate events.

India needs investments to bridge the gap between creativity and innovation; the spotlight needs to focus on the grass-roots level

A significant part of local innovations falls into deliberate and cognitive as well as the spontaneous and cognitive segments.

Creativity precedes innovation. While creativity can be individual-based, innovation can be bootstrapped but needs an institution to support its scale or formalisation.

In a country such as India, enormous creativity exists but such creativity is not translated into innovation many a time. Creators come up with ideas while innovators translate the ideas into products and services. We need investments to bridge the gap between creativity and innovation.

Pioneering work on identifying and recognising grassroot innovations by organisations such as the Grassroots Innovations Augmentation Network (GIAN) have resulted in popularising hundreds of grassroot creative ideas.

An example from Indonesia

Where does one start? Consider a pioneering creative solution, the Antrodam Project, that has been conceived by the students of Binus School in Bekasi, Indonesia.

The Antrodam Project began with one mission: to create a solution to flooding, a challenge that affects communities worldwide. Looking for ideas from the best source of inspiration, nature itself, the Binus team explored structures from the animal and plant kingdoms to find the perfect design.

Inspired by the nests of Indian Harvester ants, the students engineered a flood protection system that works with nature rather than against it. The ants have intricate tunnel systems that direct water away from their nests, keeping them safe and dry. The students were also inspired by natural structures such as 'rose petals and their layered design to direct water; the lettuce leaf coral, with its intricate branching; the giant pill millipede which can roll into a compact shape; and the male frigate bird, known for its large, water-resistant throat pouch'.

This is sheer creative brilliance but what we now need are investments to scale up these creative ideas into an innovation at scale that can be applied elsewhere.

Take some examples of creativity from India such as the 'mitti cool clay refrigerator', pedal-operated washing machines or the amphibious bicycle. Each needs scale-up to be commercially attractive with appropriate protection for the creative idea, design and application.

Investing in creativity and innovation

It is time that India invests more in creative pursuits at all levels – grassroots to technology-intensive ideas. Grassroot innovations need more investments to ensure the proof of concept demonstrated is supported by capital investments.

The innovation and associated intellectual property protection for such innovations, including informal ones, need better protection through adjustments to Indian intellectual property protection policies and regulations.

It is also time that the government invests in 'one district one innovation' modelled after the successful initiative of "one district one product' initiative.

While the climate tech sector in India received $2,853 million in 2023, the investments that grassroots creativity received seems to be very poor. Even if a small percentage of investments go to climate adaptation and mitigation actions that are creative and not working at the local level, India's ability to deal with climate change will be many times more.

What we need today is an ecosystem that balances creativity and innovations at all levels, backed by investments to ensure that India's ambitions to improve creative economic conditions are met.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Pope Francis

Pope Francis was noted for his humanity, personal warmth and humility. He fought war mongering, global indifference and a lack of concern for immigrants. He was definitely a people's pope. His reaching out to all religions is part of a rich legacy that he leaves behind for us to carry forward.

Matthew Adukanil,
Tirupattur, Tamil Nadu

The world has lost a tall religious leader — he stood out for his simplicity. But, above all, it was his tough stance against war and his stances on key issues affecting humanity that clearly showed the pope to be a symbol of hope.

Devadas V.,
Kannur, Kerala

An ardent pacifist and a strong advocate of human rights, the pontiff was that shining beacon of hope and aspiration for millions at a time when ghastly wars have engulfed and threaten to tear apart parts of the world.

B. Suresh Kumar,
Coimbatore

'Safety issues'

It is shocking that the flagship train of the Indian Railways could have serious flaws (Page 1, April 21). At a time when the Railways are planning to operate trains at 160 kmph, there need to be immediate interventions. The introduction of luxury trains is welcome but not at the cost of passenger safety.

Kshirasagara Balaji Rao,
Hyderabad

New home

The move to transfer two cheetahs to a second home in Madhya Pradesh (April 21) must be seen as a more confident measure to promote conservation and eco-tourism. One hopes that there are steps to boost monitored tourism.

R. Sampath,
Chennai

More letters online. Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the postal address.

A reminder to the President and Governors

Dushyant Dave

Senior Advocate, Supreme Court of India

The Supreme Court's judgment in *State of Tamil Nadu v. Governor of Tamil Nadu* (2025) lays down the correct constitutional position and is unassailable. However, some people have questioned the judgment. My answer to them is that the Constitution has created a parliamentary democracy.

A parliamentary system

As Dr. B.R. Ambedkar pointed out on November 4, 1948, "The Draft Constitution in recommending the Parliamentary system of Executive has preferred more responsibility to more stability." He amplified this position stating, "The American form of Government is called the Presidential system of Government. What the Draft Constitution proposes is the Parliamentary system... Under the Presidential system of America, the President is the Chief head of the Executive. The administration is vested in him. Under the Draft Constitution the President occupies the same position as the King under the English Constitution. He is the head of the State but not of the Executive. He represents the Nation but does not rule the Nation. He is the symbol of the nation. His place in the administration is that of a ceremonial device on a seal by which the nation's decisions are made known... The President of the Indian Union will be generally bound by the advice of his Ministers. He can do nothing contrary to their advice nor can he do anything without their advice."

This position stands affirmed in Article 52 of the Constitution which states that "there shall be a President of India" and in Article 153 which states that "there shall be a Governor for each State". Article 74 provides for "a Council of Ministers with the Prime Minister at the head to aid and advise the President" and Article 163 provides for "a Council of Ministers with the Chief Minister at the head to aid and advise the Governor".

In 1949, the draft Constitution had proposed to include Schedule IV, which was intended to serve as an Instrument of Instruction. However, this was deleted at the instance of the Drafting Committee. The deletion was protested by the members but justified by T. T. Krishnamachari who said, "It has now been felt that the matter should be left entirely to convention rather than be put into the body of the Constitution as Schedules, in the shape of Instrument of Instructions, and there is a fairly large volume of opinion which favours that idea." Dr. Ambedkar said, "So far as our Constitution is concerned, there is no functionary created by it who can see that these instruments of Instruction are carried out faithfully by the Governor. Secondly, the discretion which we are going to leave with the Governor under this Constitution is very meagre... He has to act on the advice of the Prime Minister in the matter of the selection of Members of the Cabinet".

Earlier, while discussing Article 52, the Constituent Assembly rejected the substitution proposed to draft Article 41 (now Article 52) proposed by K.T. Shah to the following effect: "The Chief Executive and Head of the State in the Union of India shall be called the President of India." Professor Shah justified this by saying that the President represented "sovereignty of the whole people and of the State as a whole." But Dr. Ambedkar opposed this saying, "Prof. K.T. Shah uses the word 'Chief Executive and the Head of the State'. I have no doubt... that what he means is to introduce the American presidential form of executive and not the Parliamentary form of executive... contained in this Draft Constitution. If my friend Prof. Shah were to turn to the report of the Union Constitution Committee, he will see that the Drafting Committee has followed the proposals set out in the report of that Committee. The report of that Committee says that while the President is to be the head of the executive, he is to be guided by a Council of Ministers whose advice shall be binding upon him in all actions that he is supposed to take under the power given to him by the Constitution. He is not to be the absolute supreme head... and that is the Parliamentary form of government in the United States... We have not adopted that system."

The Constitutional Bench in *Shamsher Singh v. State of Punjab* (1974) amplified this position, holding that the President is "...the Constitutional or formal head of the Union and he exercises his powers and functions conferred on him by or under the Constitution on the aid and advice of his Council of Ministers". This judgment was subsequently followed in another Constitutional Bench judgement in *Nabam Rebia v. Deputy Speaker* (2016).

A timely reminder

The President and the Governor are bound to exercise their executive power in accordance with the Constitution. Every power is coupled with the duty to exercise it for the intended purpose and within a reasonable period. If this is not done, the Writ Court has the duty to step in and require it to be so exercised.

The President under Article 60 and the Governor under Article 159 are to take constitutional oaths and affirm to the best of their ability to "preserve, protect and defend the Constitution and the law" and "devote" themselves "to the service and well-being of the people of India or the State as the case may be". How then can the President or the Governor of any State defy the Constitution and act against the will of the people? While President Droupadi Murmu maintains the decorum of the office she holds, some Governors have conducted themselves so poorly as to defile the high constitutional positions they hold. The Supreme Court has therefore given a timely reminder to the President and the Governors to respect and adhere to the Constitution and act in the interest of the people.

The Supreme Court's judgment in *State of Tamil Nadu v. Governor of Tamil Nadu* lays down the correct constitutional position and is unassailable

Power sharing across States

Recent agreements reflect inter-State cooperation

STATE OF PLAY

Varghese K. George
Ravi Reddy

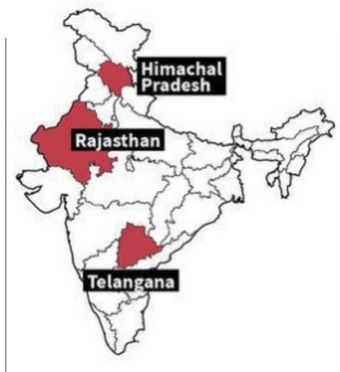
Federalism and inter-State relations are making headlines these days, and some for good reasons.

Congress-ruled Telangana has in recent months entered into agreements with Bharatiya Janata Party-ruled Odisha and Rajasthan and Congress-ruled Himachal Pradesh to meet its power demand, which is growing faster than earlier projections. The State is particularly looking to expand the share of renewable energy in its total generation, prompting it to go all the way to Himachal for hydro power and to Rajasthan for solar power. Both Rajasthan and Himachal are looking for more opportunities to optimise their potential to produce more power than they require internally, from solar and hydro sources, respectively.

On the one hand, these agreements reflect inter-State cooperation. On the other, they reflect policy continuity at the national level, from previous regimes to the current Narendra Modi government, that enables this.

"Measures taken by Dr. Manmohan Singh made inter-regional and inter-State transmission of power easy and manageable through the national grid," said Telangana Deputy Chief Minister and Energy Minister, Mallu Bhatti Vikramarka.

The Government of Telangana, through Singareni Company Collieries Limited (SCCL), has entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with RVUNL, a Government of Rajasthan-owned company, to form a joint venture company with the purpose of developing 1,600 MW thermal energy in Telangana and 1,500 MW solar energy in Rajasthan, with an investment of ₹26,200 crore. SCCL will have a 74% equity share and RVUNL will have a 26% equity share.



The agreement establishes a framework for inter-State cooperation to meet the long-term power demands of both States. It enables SCCL to enhance base-load thermal power capacity while significantly reducing generation costs by integrating cost-effective solar energy during daylight hours. The initiative aims to provide affordable, reliable, and sustainable electricity to consumers in Telangana. Highlighting the significance of this partnership, Mr. Mallu described it as a transformative initiative that demonstrates collaborative governance and sustainable energy planning.

Heeralal Nagar, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Energy, Rajasthan, said, "Rajasthan has enormous potential in solar energy. We are always ready to cooperate with all the States in the country and anyone who is investing in Rajasthan in the solar energy sector, keeping in mind Narendra Modiji's vision of taking India ahead in all sectors, including energy. Rajasthan has a target of 125 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030 and we are committed to reaching that target. We are signing pacts with PSUs and different States for reaching the target."

The MoU between the Telangana government and the Himachal Pradesh government is a strategic collaboration, leveraging the hill State's rich hydro power potential and Telangana's commitment to sustainable energy solutions. The proposed projects – Seli (400MW) and Meyar (120MW) – will contribute to Telangana's growing demand for clean energy and help in achieving long-term energy security. These projects have been assigned to Telangana Genco on nomination basis.

"These agreements are a win-win situation for both the States," Himachal Pradesh Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu said. The power generated in Himachal Pradesh will be shared between the two States until the projects are transferred by Telangana to Himachal Pradesh after 40 years.

Mr. Mallu said Telangana's power demand is growing faster than anticipated due to the expanding economy and increasing domestic demand. The Central Electricity Authority had projected the demand to grow by 8% between 2023-24 to 2024-25, from 15,623 MW to 16,877 MW. But it grew by 9.85%, to 17,162 MW.

"One thing is to meet the demand overall. But it is also important is to ensure that we increase the share of renewable energy in the mix," he said. "Land prices in Telangana are too high for solar, and there are not enough hydro project sites."

All these States are looking forward to deepening their cooperation in the energy sector to drive economic growth and also meet the increasing power needs of their citizens.

varghese.g@thehindu.co.in
ravi.reddy@thehindu.co.in

U.S. tariffs: China had rerouted exports to stay on top till 2023

With the tariffs reaching high levels this year, it remains to be seen whether China will continue to dominate world exports

DATA POINT

Nitika Francis
Vignesh Radhakrishnan

Trade data shows that despite facing tariff headwinds from the U.S., the world's largest importer, China, the world's largest exporter, has managed to increase its overall exports, till at least 2023. A series of tariff escalations by the U.S. on Chinese products from 2018 led to fewer imports by the U.S. from China in the following years. Despite this, China's share in global exports rose from around 13% in the years before the tariff escalations to 15% in the years following them.

In fact, the U.S.'s share in many of China's top export commodities declined considerably after the tariff escalations in 2018. China was able to make up for the fall by finding newer markets or selling more to other trade partners.

In January 2018, the average rate of U.S. tariffs on Chinese products was a little over 3%. By the time President Donald Trump's first term ended, the average tariffs on each others' products was around 20%, which remained the same during the Biden years as well. However, this year, the U.S.'s tariffs on Chinese products kept increasing and is now finally pegged at a staggering 145%. Beijing retaliated by raising duties on U.S. products to 125%.

With the tariffs reaching very high levels, it remains to be seen whether China will be able to retain its dominance in world trade. In fact, by April 2025, all the commodities exported by the U.S. to China and vice-versa were subjected to some level of tariffs **(Chart 1)**. This was not the case during former U.S. President Joe Biden's term, with tariffs being applied on around 60-70% of the products.

Chart 2 shows the share of China's top five export destinations from 2014 to 2018 (before escalations) and 2019 to 2023 (after). The U.S. remained the largest importer of Chinese products by a wide margin in both the periods, though the share did come down significantly in the 2019-2023 period. Before escalations, 9.7% of Chinese exports went to the U.S.; after escalations, this reduced considerably to 8.1%.

The decline in China's exports to the U.S. becomes even more evident in **Chart 3**. During the five years prior to the tariff escalations (2014-2018), China's exports to the U.S. grew by 35.5% when compared with the previous five-year period (2009-2013). However, in the five years following the escalations (2019-2023), export growth slowed significantly, rising by only 20% relative to the 2014-2018 period.

China was able to offset this decline by boosting exports to non-U.S. markets. While exports to non-U.S. countries grew by only 26.8% in the 2014-2018 period, they increased by 37.3% during the 2019-2023 period, effectively compensating for the drop in exports to the U.S.

This compensation was also seen at the product level. **Chart 4A** shows the fall in the U.S.'s share across China's major export items between 2019 and 2023 compared with the 2014-2018 period. The U.S.'s share in many of China's major exports fell in the period. In other words, China had to look elsewhere to bridge the gap.

Chart 4B shows that China managed to find newer markets for most of these items. The chart shows China's share in the world's total exports of all the items listed in Chart 4A. In the post-escalations period, China's share in the world's total exports increased in electrical machinery, furniture, plastics, vehicles, organic chemicals, rubber and paper. In other words, for these major export items, despite the decline in the U.S.'s share, China continued to dominate world trade.

Tariff impact on China

Chart 1 was sourced from the Peterson Institute for International Economics. Data for charts 2,3 and 4 were sourced from the United Nations Comtrade database

Chart 1: The chart shows the share of exports from the U.S. that were subject to tariffs from China and vice-versa from 2018 to 2025

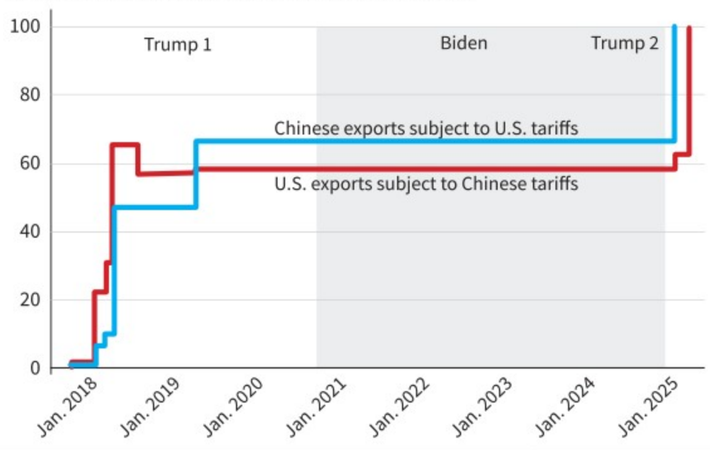


Chart 2: The share of China's top five export destinations from 2014 to 2018 (before tariff escalations) and 2019 to 2023 (after)

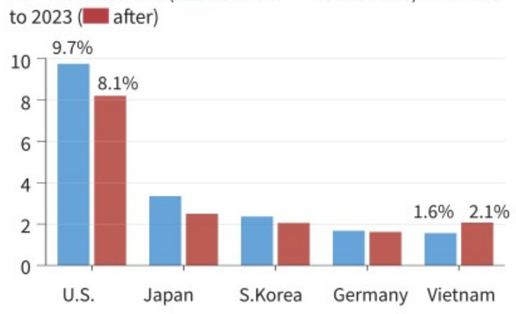


Chart 3: The chart shows China's export growth in two 5-year periods: 2014–2018 and 2019-2023, to nations other than the U.S. and to the U.S.

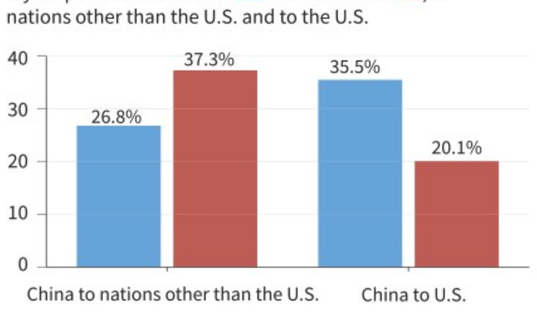


Chart 4A: Change in the U.S.'s share across China's major export items between 2019-2023 and 2014-2018 (in %)

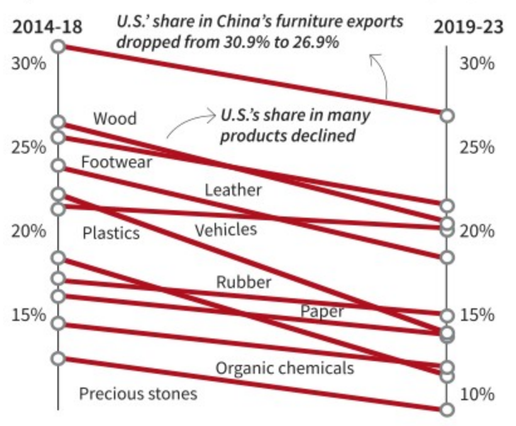
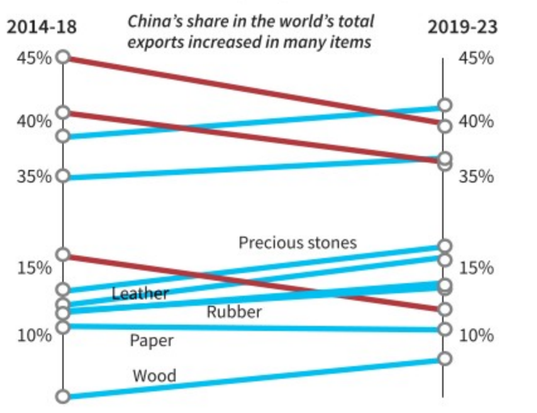


Chart 4B: China's share in the world's total exports of all the items listed in Chart 4A (in %)



FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO APRIL 22, 1975

Water begins to flow into Farakka canal

New Delhi, April 21: Water started flowing into the Farakka feeder canal at 11-00 hours this morning.

An announcement to this effect was made amidst cheers in the Lok Sabha to-day by the Agriculture and Irrigation Minister, Mr. Jagjivan Ram, at the end of a statement on the Indo-Bangladesh agreement on Farakka reached in Dacca last week.

Mr. Jagjivan Ram, who led the Indian delegation to the talks at Dacca from April 16 to 18 said: "The House will be glad to know that an understanding has been reached during this meeting which enables the Farakka barrage to be operated and the feeder canal to be run during the current lean period."

He laid a copy of the agreement on the table of the House.

Mr. Jagjivan Ram said: "Since the discussions regarding allocation of the minimum flows of the Ganga during the lean months are continuing between the two Governments, the present agreement is a provisional arrangement to enable the running of the feeder canal.

"This agreement is a breakthrough for the Farakka issue and sets an outstanding example of mutual understanding and accommodation of the two neighbouring countries in the development of the waters of an international river.

It is hoped that this understanding will further reinforce the relations between the two countries and would enable expeditious settlement by negotiations of the Farakka issue on a lasting basis."

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO APRIL 22, 1925

International Wireless Congress

Paris, April 20: The Juridical Section of the International Wireless Congress has resolved that the right of intellectual property recognised by the International Convention at Berne applies to wireless diffusion of all intellectual works. The Congress also approved of a series of recommendations by which specific wave lengths will be assigned to amateurs in different regions with a view to obviate confusion caused by the similarity of wave lengths.

From Page One

Modi and Vance see 'significant progress'

Talks for the BTA, agreed to during Mr. Modi's meeting with Mr. Trump in February, are expected to finalise a 'first tranche' of the trade pact during Mr. Trump's India visit, and will include reduced or zero tariffs in a number of areas. However, there has been little indication of a breakthrough so far on issues like market access in agriculture, and the revocation of the digital equalisation levy and other measures by India.

Mr. Modi also discussed the India-U.S. road map that seeks to build on Mr. Trump's "Make America Great Again (MAGA)" slogan and New Delhi's plans for "Viksit Bharat (Developed India) 2047", the statement said. National Security Adviser Ajit Doval and External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar were present at the talks at the Prime Minister's residence, along with senior U.S. officials, and U.S. Charge d'Affaires Jorgan Andrews.

"The two leaders also exchanged views on various regional and global issues of mutual interest and called for dialogue and diplomacy as the way forward," the statement said, but did not mention specifically whether the Ukraine war or the conflict in Gaza were discussed.

Earlier, the visit had some uncertain moments as news came in of Pope Francis' sudden demise in the Vatican, leading to questions about whether Mr. Vance, a Catholic, who had met the Pope only on Sunday after Easter mass, would curtail his plans, or whether the Prime Minister would put off the official dinner. However, the visit proceeded as scheduled, with Mr. Vance writing a post on X just after learning of the Pope's passing.

"I was happy to see him yesterday, though he was obviously very ill," Mr. Vance said, expressing condolences.

Mr. Vance, his family and the U.S. delegation consisting of U.S. NSC point-person for South and Central Asia Ricky Gill, Pentagon and State department officials had landed in Delhi's Palam airport on Monday morning, where he was received by Railway Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw.

Vances visit Akshardham temple

Although an earlier plan to visit the Red Fort was cancelled, the Vances went to the Akshardham temple.

Pope Francis, a cheerful reformer, dies aged 88

World leaders paid tribute to his moral and spiritual leadership and countries began preparations to mark his death.

Some visitors to St. Peters Square – where a frail-looking Pope Francis was cheered by Easter Sunday worshippers during an unscheduled appearance just a day earlier – were left in tears at the news.

His death sets in motion centuries-old traditions that will culminate in the gathering of a conclave of cardinals to choose a successor.

In the next four to six days, the Vatican's cardinals will decide on the Pope's funeral date. In the meantime, the day-to-day running of the tiny Vatican City state will be handled by the Camerlengo, a senior cardinal, currently Dublin-born Cardinal Farrell.

Pope Francis had confirmed in his final testament that he wished to be buried in Rome's Basilica of Saint Mary Major and not at St. Peter's Basilica in the Vatican, unlike many previous pontiffs.

The text specified that the Pope wanted to be buried "in the ground, without particular decoration" but with the inscription of his papal name in Latin: Franciscus.

World leaders praised him for having strongly defended social justice and the rights of migrants.

Britain's King Charles, who met Pope Francis during a state visit earlier this month, said the pope had "served with such devotion".

EC is 'compromised', claims Rahul Gandhi during his U.S. visit

The Congress leader cites the 'unusual' increase in the voter turnout in the last two hours of voting during the Maharashtra Assembly election

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi, who is on a visit to the United States, has alleged that the Election Commission is "compromised", and cited the "unusual" increase in the voter turnout in the last two hours of voting during the Maharashtra Assembly election.

Mr. Gandhi, who arrived in the U.S. on April 19, made the remarks at an event in Boston on Sunday. He asserted that the Congress party has been raising this issue and claimed that "there is something wrong with the system".

The Leader of Opposition in the Lok Sabha said that more people voted in the Maharashtra Assembly polls than there were in the State.

"The Election Commission gave us a voting figure for 5.30 p.m., and between 5.30 p.m. and 7.30 p.m., 65 lakh voters voted. This is physically impossible to happen. For a voter to vote, it takes approximately three minutes, and if you do the math, it would mean that there were lines of voters till 2 a.m., but this did not happen," Mr. Gandhi said.

Voicing concern: Rahul Gandhi in a meeting with Overseas Congress chief Sam Pitroda in Boston on Sunday. ANI

'They changed law'

"When we asked them for the videography, they not only refused but also changed the law so that now we are not allowed to ask for the videography. It is very clear to us that the Election Commission is compromised, and it is very clear that there is something wrong with the system. I have said this multiple times," the party leader added.

The Congress leader, who began his interactions with the business and Indian community members, will visit Brown University in Rhode Island on April 21-22.

At Brown University, the Leader of the Opposition is scheduled to deliver a lecture and interact with faculty members and students.

Rahul is insulting country's institutions in foreign land: BJP

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The BJP on Monday accused Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha Rahul Gandhi of being a "traitor", over his comments in the United States related to the Election Commission and the charges made in the Enforcement Directorate's prosecution complaint in the *National Herald* case.

At a press conference, BJP spokesperson and MP Sambit Patra said Mr. Gandhi was targeting the Election Commission over frustration due to the ED's chargesheet. "It is an open and shut case of loot by the mother and son…you will go to jail," he said pointing to Mr. Gandhi.

In the *National Herald* case, he said bogus advertisements worth ₹38 crore and fake donations amounting to ₹18 crore were received, and bogus advance rents were claimed. According to the ED, the proceeds of crime is worth ₹988 crore, said Mr. Patra.

"Rahul Gandhi is a traitor not only because he goes to a foreign land and insults the country's institutions, undermines the Indian democracy, he is also a traitor because he has embezzled crores of the country's property through *National Herald*," the BJP MP added.

Sambit Patra

Sign of failure

Terming Mr. Gandhi "politically unfit", the BJP leader said "a politically unfit person always takes the crutches of false allegations to prove that he is a leader. And today, whether in America or in other countries, what Rahul Gandhi is doing is a sign of his failure."

Stating that the charges made by the ED were serious, he said the Congress would attempt to create an atmosphere of unrest in the country. "If they feel that they can destroy the image of this great democracy by speaking outside of the country, then they are totally on the wrong side of the line…," said Mr. Patra.

ED is carrying on vendetta against Cong.: Chidambaram

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Senior Congress Leader P. Chidambaram on Monday said that the Enforcement Directorate is carrying on a vendetta against the leaders of the principal Opposition party, the Congress, at the behest of its political masters by naming former Congress chiefs Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi in its chargesheet in the *National Herald* case.

Addressing a press conference at the Delhi Congress headquarters, Mr. Chidambaram said "There is no transaction of money. Without money, there are no 'proceeds of crime'. Without 'proceeds of crime', there is no money laundering. Without money laundering, the ED has no jurisdiction."

He added that the assault on the integrity and reputation of Sonia Gandhi and Rahul Gandhi is a blatant abuse of power.

Putting out the facts of the case,he said that *National Herald* is owned by Associated Journals Ltd (AJL). Over time, AJL incurred huge losses and the Congress party stepped in to pay the outstanding liabilities, including wages and salaries.

Author of *The Emergency* to sue Netflix, Manikarnika

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Coomi Kapoor, a senior woman journalist and author of the book *The Emergency*, is suing Manikarnika Films Private Limited and Netflix for alleged "blatant breach of contract" and for allegedly "damaging her reputation and that of her book" by the Kangana Ranaut-starrer *Emergency* being shown on Netflix, said a press note on Monday.

Manikarnika Films could not be reached for comment. Netflix has promised to respond and the response is awaited. As per an industry representative, however, *Emergency* is a licensed title for Netflix and Ms. Kapoor's contract for the film is not with Netflix.

"The damage to her reputation as a journalist and author is irretrievable," alleged the note.

Maoist leader carrying ₹1 cr. bounty among eight killed in encounter in Jharkhand

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Eight suspected Maoists, including a top leader of the banned group carrying a reward of ₹1 crore on his head, were killed in an encounter with a joint team of the Central Reserve Police Force (CRPF) and the Jharkhand Police in Bokaro district on Monday.

The commandos of 209 Commando Battalion for Resolute Action (CoBRA) of the CRPF along with the State police conducted the operation in which an AK series rifle, three INSAS rifles, a self-loading rifle (SLR), eight country-made guns and a pistol were also seized, a CRPF official said.

The exchange of fire started around 5.30 a.m. in Lugu Hills of the Lalpania area of the district, the official said. Those killed include central committee member of the Maoist outfit Prayag Manjhi, alias Vivek, special area committee member Arvind Yadav, alias Avinash, and zonal committee member Sahebram Manjhi alias Rahul Manjhi.

Arms, ammunition, and other materials recovered by the CRPF in the Lugu hills in Bokaro of Jharkhand on Monday. ANI

Vivek carried a bounty of ₹1 crore, Arvind Yadav had a reward of ₹25 lakh and Sahebram Majhi ₹10 lakh.

No injuries have been reported among the security personnel, the CRPF official added.

'Significant success'

"Our march to eliminate Naxalism continues unabated. Today security forces achieved another significant success in the ongoing operation to uproot Naxalism… The operation is being continued. Applaud our security forces," Union Home Minister Amit Shah wrote on X.

Farmers' outfits raise call to burn effigies of Modi, Trump, Vance

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Samyukt Kisan Morcha (SKM), the umbrella organisation of several farmers' outfits, gave a call on Monday to burn the effigies of Prime Minister Narendra Modi, United States President Donald Trump and U.S. Vice-President J.D. Vance at all district headquarters as a mark of protest against alleged attempts by the U.S. to "coerce" the Union government to "impose unfair trade terms and to dump U.S. agricultural products" on India.

The SKM general body, which met in the national capital on Sunday, said in a statement that the the U.S.'s aims to get unregulated freedom for their food chains, trading giants and agribusiness corporations to operate in India.

"Tariff-free import of huge quantities of highly subsidised milk and milk products, soyabean, cotton, wheat, rice, pulses, oilseeds, genetically modified crops, fruits and vegetables, processed and canned foods into Indian markets will devastate the income and livelihood of Indian peasantry," the SKM said.

'Unregulated access'

The farmers' body added that the Trump administration had been putting pressure on the Modi government to wind up the public distribution system and withdraw all subsidies for farmers on fuel and fertilisers. "It wants India to change its patent laws to suit American companies. These changes will erode the independence of Indian farmers and bring disastrous impact on food security of Indian people," the statement said.

Jammu-Srinagar National Highway remains blocked for second day

Peerzada Ashiq
SRINAGAR

Jammu and Kashmir's Ramban district offered scary images of nature's fury on Monday.

Scores of trucks with perishable goods, including poultry and vegetables, and passenger vehicles remained either stranded along the Jammu-Srinagar National Highway or buried under the debris for more than 12 hours.

Vehicles stuck on the blocked Srinagar-Jammu highway after a landslide following a cloudburst in Ramban. IMRAN NISSAR

The authorities launched a massive exercise to restore the critical highway, which saw a major disruption on Sunday following cloudbursts, landslips, and flash floods triggered by incessant rain for the past three days.

"We are trying to make the highway at least one-way to restore traffic of vehicles carrying essentials. We are hopeful to restore it by Tuesday evening," Baseer-ul-Haq, Deputy Commissioner, Ramban, said.

However, official sources said it will take many days to fully restore traffic. "More than 500 chickens in my truck died in the past 24 hours. I dumped them on the roadside to ensure others survive," Kiran Sham, a truck driver said. Officials said over 140 stranded vehicles were allowed to move to safer locations.

They said about 10 to 12 villages, including Seri, Bagna, Panote and Khari, had suffered varying degrees of damage.

"Teams are already deputed to conduct comprehensive assessment to ensure that genuine losses are recorded and compensated accordingly," Divisional Commissioner, Jammu, Ramesh Kumar said. He said the departments have been instructed to expedite restoration of water supply, power supply, and other public utilities.

Chief Minister Omar Abdullah also visited Ramban district on Sunday evening. "We have to restore traffic as several vehicles remain buried under debris. We have to realign the highway. It will take around three days to restore traffic. The administration is assessing the damage and relief will be provided," he said.

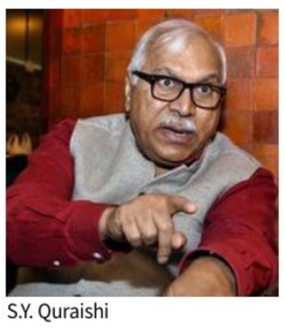
Quraishi slams Dubey for 'Muslim commissioner' barb

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Hitting out at BJP MP Nishikant Dubey for his "Muslim commissioner" barb, former Chief Election Commissioner S.Y. Quraishi on Monday said he believes in an idea of India where an individual is defined by his contributions, and asserted that "for some, religious identities are a staple to forward their hateful politics".

Leaders extend support

A day after Mr. Dubey's remarks, Mr. Quraishi received support from several politicians, including Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav and Congress MP Shashi Tharoor, who said it is time to stand up for human worth over community labels.



S.Y. Quraishi

Mr. Quraishi asserted that India "has, is and will always stand up and fight" for its constitutional institutions and principles.

"I believe in an idea of India where an individual is defined by his or her talents and contributions and not by their religious identities," he added.

Earlier in the morning, without any reference, Mr. Quraishi posted, "'I learned long ago, never to wrestle with a pig. You get dirty, and besides, the pig likes it - George Bernard Shaw. A very wise quote of the great author!"

Several political leaders and parties rallied behind Mr. Quraishi and slammed Mr. Dubey for his remarks.

Samajwadi Party president Akhilesh Yadav hit out at Mr. Dubey, saying he should refrain from commenting on a former constitutional authority who has served the nation with distinction.

CPI General Secretary D. Raja condemned Mr. Dubey's remarks and alleged that the BJP does not have any respect for the Constitution.

Mr. Dubey's barb at the former CEC came a day after his vitriolic attack on the Supreme Court and Chief Justice of Sanjiv Khanna, blaming the CJI for causing "civil wars" in India.

CARACAL and ICOMM set up arms facility in Hyderabad

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

The UAE-based CARACAL, on Monday inaugurated a small arms manufacturing facility at ICOMM's integrated engineering facility in Hyderabad. The pact is a milestone in UAE-India defence collaboration.

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IIM Kozhikode Campus (PO) Kozhikode – 673570
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21.04.2025 Head Admin & HR

A visit that wasn't: Pope Francis' proposed trip to India remained unfulfilled

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Unfinished journey: Prime Minister Narendra Modi with Pope Francis at the Vatican City. PTI

As Pope Francis passed away on Monday, battling a complex lung infection and complications, his visit to India, which was likely to take place after 2025, never materialised.

Though India has more Catholics than Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, East Timor, and Singapore combined, there has been no papal visit to the country since 1999.

Around 2017, India seemed on course for a papal visit, but Pope Francis visited the neighbouring countries of Bangladesh and Myanmar instead, after an official invitation to India reportedly failed to materialise.

In the year 2021, Pope Francis accepted an invitation from Prime Minister Narendra Modi to visit the country. Mr. Modi also renewed the invitation when he met with the Pope in June 2024, on the sidelines of the G7 summit in Italy.

The Prime Minister also took to social media and said, "Had a very warm meeting with Pope Francis. I had the opportunity to discuss a wide range of issues with him and also invited him to visit India." Union Minister of State for Minority Affairs George Kurian said last December that Pope Francis, the head of the Roman Catholic Church, was likely to visit India after 2025. The visit is set against the backdrop of the Church's celebrations for the Jubilee Year in 2025.

According to Union Minister George Kurian, the Pope was likely to visit the country after 2025

As per the news agency *PTI*, Mr. Kurian added, "So, as per the information we received, Pope Francis will visit India after the Jubilee Year. We expect that he will be visiting [the country] at the earliest."

Long due

The papal visit to India was long due. The first Pope to visit India was Paul IV, who visited Mumbai in 1964. Pope John Paul II visited India in February 1986 and November 1999. John Paul II, the last Pope to visit India, came to New Delhi in 1999 to issue a papal document on the Church in Asia.

Before Mr. Modi, the Indian Prime Minister to meet a Pope was the late Atal Bihari Vajpayee, who met John Paul II at the Vatican.

Leaders mourn Pope; Centre declares three-day mourning

Expressing deep condolences, Prime Minister says Francis' love for the people of India will always be cherished, while Congress president calls him an influential force for global peace and harmony; Rahul says he stood by the downtrodden

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Offering tributes: Members of various communities lighting candles as they pay respects to Pope Francis during a condolence meeting in New Delhi on Monday. AFP

The Government of India announced state mourning for three days as a mark of respect to Pope Francis, who passed away on Monday.

In a statement, the Union Home Ministry said, "His Holiness Pope Francis, Supreme Pontiff of the Holy See, passed away on April 21. As a mark of respect, three-day state mourning shall be observed throughout India."

The state mourning will be observed on April 22 and 23 and on the day of the funeral, the statement said.

During the period of the state mourning, the National Flag will be flown at half mast throughout India on all buildings where the it is flown regularly, and there will be no official entertainment, it added.

Tributes poured in from across the political spectrum for Pope Francis.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi expressed his condolences and described the departed spiritual leader of the Catholic world as a "beacon of compassion".

"Deeply pained by the passing of Pope Francis. In this hour of grief and remembrance, my heartfelt condolences to the global Catholic community. Pope Francis will always be remembered as a beacon of compassion, humility and spiritual courage by millions across the world. From a young age, he devoted himself towards realising the ideals of Lord Christ," Mr. Modi said in his remarks remembering his 2021 meeting with Pope Francis.

"His affection for the people of India will always be cherished. May his soul find eternal peace in God's embrace," the Prime Minister added.

'Spoke fearlessly'

Congress leader Rahul Gandhi expressed his condolences and said, "He stood by the downtrodden and the marginalised, spoke fearlessly against inequality, and inspired millions across faiths with his message of love and humanity."

Congress chief Mallikarjun Kharge described Pope Francis as a "consistent champion of inter-religious understanding and engagement."

"He was also a greatly influential force for global peace and harmony who actively supported causes like the ending of discrimination of all forms, the mitigation of economic inequalities and of collaborative endeavours to deal with the impacts of climate change," he added.

Pramod Sawant, Chief Minister of Goa, expressed condolences and said, "On behalf of the Government of Goa, I extend my heartfelt condolences to the Catholic community in Goa and across the world. May his soul rest in eternal peace."

'Uplifting dignity'

Other leaders including Chief Adviser of Bangladesh Mohammed Yunus, Prime Minister of Nepal K.P. Sharma Oli and Sri Lankan President Anura Kumara Dissanayake have also expressed condolences.

"With his passing away, we have seen the end of an epoch of dignified papacy, honed by suave leadership qualities, carried out for uplifting human dignity, interfaith harmony and justice for the marginalised," Professor Yunus said.

(With inputs from PTI)

Sainthoods, Cardinal elevation: a papacy marked by a keen engagement with India

Press Trust of India
KOCHI

Close ties: George Jacob Koovakad (right) receives the Cardinal's hat and ring from Pope Francis as he is made a Cardinal during a mass in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican in 2024. AP

Pope Francis' connection with India was marked by a mix of hopes and challenges.

Though he could not fulfil his long-held wish to visit India, he had elevated an Indian priest, who is a Vatican official, just months ago to the rank of Cardinal – a notable moment for the Catholic community in the country.

While his efforts to resolve conflict in the Syro-Malabar Church did not bear fruit, Pope Francis moved forward with the sainthood causes of a few much-revered Indian figures, offering quiet moments of pride for many of the faithful.

During his papacy, he elevated Fr. Kuriakose Elias Chavara and Sister Euphrasia Eluvathingal from Kerala to sainthood in 2014.

In 2019, another Kerala-born Catholic nun, Mariam Thresia, was declared a saint by Pope Francis at a function held at St Peter's Basilica in Rome. She was the third nun and fourth clergy member from the Kerala-based Syro-Malabar Church to be canonised into the league of saints.

His papacy also saw Devasahayam Pillai, who embraced Christianity in the 18th century, being declared a saint – becoming the first Indian layman to be canonised.

It was in a grand consistory held at the Vatican on December 7, 2024, that Jacob Koovakad, 51, was elevated to the rank of Cardinal by Pope Francis.

His efforts to resolve the conflict over how Holy Mass is performed in the Syro-Malabar Church did not succeed.

During his papacy, the Syro-Malabar Church was marred by crisis, with a strong section of priests and members of the community in the Ernakulam-Angamaly Archdiocese disagreeing with the Syro-Malabar Church's 2021 decision on uniform Holy Mass.

Church to observe nine days of mourning

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

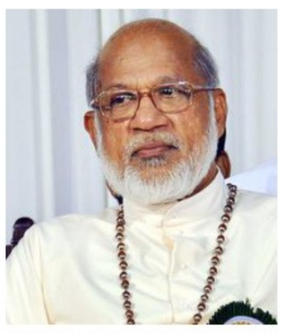
The Catholic Bishops' Conference of India (CBCI) condoled the death of Pope Francis on Monday and said that the Catholic Church in India will observe nine days of mourning and prayers.

It appealed to Catholics in India to offer a holy mass for the Pope.

In a statement, the CBCI, the permanent association of the Catholic hierarchy of India, said that the church "joins millions of faithful across the world in mourning the loss of a shepherd who led the global Catholic Church with extraordinary courage, compassion, and humility." It said special prayers will be offered in all parishes and religious houses on the day of the funeral.

Four from India can vote in conclave; Kerala-based Church loses representation

Sandeep Vellaram
IDUKKI



Cardinal Mar George Alencherry of Syro-Malabar Church turned 80 and lost the voting right.

Four Cardinals from India are eligible to vote in the conclave to elect a new Pope following the death of Pope Francis on Monday. They are Archbishop Antony Poola of the Hyderabad Archdiocese; Metropolitan Archbishop Filipe Neri of Goa; Cardinal Mar Baselios Cleemis of the Syro-Malankara Church, and Cardinal Mar George Koovakkad from Kerala.

The Syro-Malabar Church, one of the most prominent Eastern Catholic Churches under the Holy See, finds itself without a voting representative. Cardinal Mar George Alencherry, the former head of the Syro-Malabar Church, turned 80 on April 19, losing his eligibility to vote in the conclave to elect the new Pope. By the Church protocol, only Cardinals under the age of 80 are permitted to vote. This leaves the Syro-Malabar Church, despite its sizeable community of 5.5 million members, without a voice in the selection process.

Fr. Antony Vadakkekara, Secretary of the Media Commission of the Syro-Malabar Church, said Cardinal Mar Baselios Cleemis of the Syro-Malankara rite of the Catholic Church and Cardinal Mar George Koovakkad will participate in the upcoming conclave. "Although we cannot officially consider Mar Koovakkad as a representative of the Syro-Malabar Church, we still regard Cardinals from Kerala as part of our broader spiritual family," Fr. Vadakkekara said.

Mar Koovakkad, though originally from the Syro-Malabar Church under the Changanassery Archdiocese, now serves as a Cardinal of the Latin Church and will not represent the Syro-Malabar Church in the election.

During the election of Pope Francis in 2013, Mar George Alencherry and Mar Baselios Cleemis had the vote. "In that conclave, Mar Alencherry was the face of the Syro-Malabar Church in Rome. Had his 80th birthday fallen a few days later, he might have been able to cast his vote in the upcoming election as well," a Church source said.

Big absence

The Syro-Malabar Church, based in Kerala, remains one of the most influential Eastern Catholic communities under the Holy See. However, the absence of a voting representative in the next conclave underscores the challenges Eastern Churches face in securing proportional representation within the global Catholic hierarchy.

Pope Francis had acted decisively in affairs of Syro-Malabar Church

Hiran Unnikrishnan
KOTTAYAM

A quote from a statement shared on social media by Fr. Jijo Kurian, a Capuchin priest from Idukki, captures the lasting image of Pope Francis among the faithful in Kerala. "I prefer a Church that is bruised, hurting, and dirty because it has been out on the streets, rather than a Church that is unhealthy from being confined and clinging to its own security," Pope Francis said.

Yet, as tributes pour in following the Pontiff's passing, many voices in Kerala are also using this moment to highlight the ideological distance that often existed between Pope Francis and a section of the Catholic clergy in Kerala. One such divergence became especially evident during the war in Gaza, amid worries over the growing anti-Israel sentiment in the State.

Pope Francis chose to directly engage with Islamic leaders, undertaking historic papal visits across the Muslim world, and striving to build bridges of peace and understanding.

"The Pope consistently championed peace, dialogue, and interfaith respect, especially in the face of violence. The contrast between his Gospel-rooted humanitarianism and local insecurities reveals a significant rift," a Catholic priest from Kerala said.

Catholic reformist Shyju Antony, who leads *Almaya Munnettom*, a lay movement active within the Ernakulam-Angamaly Archdiocese, too has echoed similar sentiments. He pointed to several instances where Pope Francis did not hesitate to intervene in the affairs of the autonomous Syro-Malabar Church. "One notable example was when he commissioned an international consultancy to probe the controversial land deal and subsequently divested Cardinal George Alencherry of his administrative responsibilities," Mr. Antony said.

He added that Pope Francis was also the first to challenge the long-held practice of treating sexual abuse cases involving Bishops as "pontifical secrets". This shift was evident in his decision to accept the resignation of Bishop Franco Mulakkal, though the Bishop had been acquitted in a rape case by a trial court in Kerala.

APTRANSCO :: VIJAYAWADA
e-Procurement Tender Notice

The APTRANSCO invites bids on e-procurement platform vide **Tender Specification No. PMM22-e-11/2025** for Procurement of
1) 400KV, 2500A, 63KA HCB Isolator Metallics with 1E/S-20 Sets
2) 400KV, 2500A, 63KA HCB Isolator Metallics with 2E/S-04 Sets
Bidding documents are available at **www.tender.apeprocurement.gov.in**
Date of availability of Bids is **22-04-2025 @ 5 pm.**

Sd/- Chief Engineer/ Transmission,
APTRANSCO, Vidyuth Soudha, Vijayawada, AP.
DIPR 4053PP/CL, Dt.21-04-2025

PSPCL Punjab State Power Corporation Limited
Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
Corporate Identity No. UP0109PB2010SGC033813 Website: www.pspcl.in
(Contact No. 96461-01116)

Tender Enquiry No. 01/BTI/GC/TC/PSPCL/2025-26 | **Dated 22.04.2025**

Sr. XEN/Grid Construction, 312, Thermal Colony Bathinda invites open e-Tender for outsourcing work of erection, testing and commissioning of bay & Control room equipment (matching work) related to augmentation of Power Transformers on partial turnkey mode under RDSS scheme under Grid Construction Circle, Ludhiana. For detailed NIT & Tender Specifications please refer to http://eproc.punjab.gov.in from 22.04.2025 (01:00 PM onwards).

Note: Corrigendum and amendments, if any will be published online at https://eproc.punjab.gov.in

C 296/25 **76155/12/4164/2023/43708**

ADDITIONAL CHIEF ENGINEER
PHED NCR REGION ALWAR
E-Mail ace.alw.phed@rajasthan.gov.in

No. 237-251 Date: 08/04/2025

NOTICE INVITING BID (NIT No. 02/2025-26)

Bids for Work of Construction of Source, PLJ of rising main pipelines, internal village distribution pipeline, Reservoir and FHTC including one year Defect Liability period of Village Belaka under Panchayat Samiti Umrain under JJM in the jurisdiction of PHED Division Rural Division 1st Alwar are invited from interested bidders upto 5.00 PM on Date 08.05.2025. Other particulars of the Bid may be visited on the procurement portal (http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.raj.nic.in) of the state and https://phedwater.rajasthan.gov.in departmental website.

UBN :- PHE2526WSOB00523 **Additional Chief Engineer**
DIPR/C/5042/2025 **PHED NCR Region Alwar**

PUNJAB STATE POWER CORPORATION LTD
Regd. Office: PSEB Head Office, The Mall, Patiala-147001
Corporate Identity Number : U40109PB2010SGC033813
Website: www.pspcl.in; Contact No.: 96461-18774

Tender Enquiry No. MQP-247/2025-26/PR **Date 21.04.2025**

CE/Metering, PSPCL, C-3, Shakti Vihar, PSPCL, Patiala invites E-tender for Procurement of 2,800 no. cubicle (SMC Box) for Housing LT AC three phase four wire, CT operated energy meter and 3 no. epoxy resin cast ring type CTs.. For detailed NIT & tender specification please refer to **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in** from 21.04.2025 from (03:00 PM onwards).

Note: Corrigendum and amendments, if any will be published online at **https://eproc.punjab.gov.in**

C 298/25 **76155/12/4166/2023/43711**

INBRIEF

PM to flag off Namo Bharat intercity train in Bihar

Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to flag off Bihar's second Amrit Bharat train, connecting the State to Maharashtra, and inaugurate a new Namo Bharat train service (in picture) between Jaynagar and Patna on April 24. The new Amrit Bharat service will operate between Saharsa in Bihar and Lokmanya Tilak Terminus in Mumbai. The train, manufactured at Integral Coach Factory, will have a maximum speed of 130 km per hour. Its route includes Hajipur, Pandit Deen Dayal Upadhyay junction near Varanasi, and Bhusaval. Namo Bharat trains have engines on both ends, which helps in cutting turnaround time during intercity travel.

SC directs Puja Khedkar to appear before Delhi Police

The Supreme Court on Monday directed former IAS probationer Puja Khedkar to appear before the Delhi Police Crime Branch (Central) for questioning even as it ordered that no "coercive steps", to the extent of arrest, be made against her. A Bench headed by Justice B.V. Nagarathna directed Ms. Khedkar to appear before the police on May 2 at 10.30 a.m. and on any other day, if she is summoned. She is accused of cheating and wrongly availing OBC and disability quota benefits. The top court had earlier granted her interim protection from arrest in January.

Won't a direction to Centre to 'protect' Bengal amount to 'judicial incursion': SC

Justice Gavai made the remark in response to a plea to direct the Union government to invoke emergency powers and protect the State from violence; the petitioner sought urgent hearing

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Monday answered a plea to direct the Union government to invoke emergency powers and "protect" the State of West Bengal from violence with a question on whether such a measure would amount to a judicial incursion into the domains of the Executive and Legislature.

The judge's remark from the Bench came in response to a plea by advocate Vishnu Shankar Jain to hear his application to invoke Article 355 of the Constitution, mentioning the communal violence and deaths in West Bengal during protests against the Waqf (Amendment) Act, 2025.

Article 355 mandates it the "duty of the Union to protect every State against external aggression and internal disturbance and to ensure that the government of every State is carried on in accordance with the provisions of this Constitution".

> You want us to issue a writ of mandamus to the Union government to deploy paramilitary forces... Will it not be interfering with the Legislative and Executive domains? As it is, we are being accused of interfering with parliamentary and Executive functions
>
> **JUSTICE B.R. GAVAI**
> Supreme Court judge

Mr. Jain pleaded for an urgent hearing of his plea on Tuesday. The court told him to file the plea.

T.N. Governor case

Justice B.R. Gavai, who has been recommended to be appointed as the next Chief Justice of India, obliquely referred to criticism about the judiciary intruding on government and parliamentary terrains following an April 8 judgment in the Tamil Nadu Governor case.

The court, in its verdict, had issued timelines to the President and Governors for clearing Bills. Vice-President Jagdeep Dhankhar had later criticised the judiciary for acting like a "super-Parliament".

"You want us to issue a writ of mandamus to the Union government to deploy paramilitary forces... Will it not be interfering with the Legislative and Executive domains? As it is, we are being accused of interfering with parliamentary and Executive functions," Justice Gavai remarked to Mr. Jain.

'Get A-G's permission'

Separately, Justice Gavai's Bench asked a lawyer, who made an oral mentioning, to get Attorney-General R. Venkataramani's permission to initiate contempt of court proceedings against Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) MP Nishikant Dubey for his comments against the Supreme Court and the CJI Sanjiv Khanna against the backdrop of the April 8 judgment.

Under the law, the Attorney-General has to give his consent to file a contempt petition in the Supreme Court.

Meanwhile, another Bench of the Supreme Court headed by Justice Surya Kant saw a petitioner-advocate, Shashant Shekhar Jha, withdraw his petition seeking the setting up of a Special Investigation Team and a court-monitored probe into the violence in West Bengal.

Two ISRO satellites dock successfully for the second time

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The ISRO has executed the second docking of the two satellites Chaser and Target.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has successfully executed the second docking of the two satellites – SDX01 (Chaser) and SDX02 (Target) – that are part of the Space Docking Experiment (SpaDeX) mission, Union Minister of State for Science and Technology Jitendra Singh said on Monday.

"Glad to inform that the second docking of satellites has been accomplished successfully. As informed earlier, the PSLV-C60 / SPADEX mission was successfully launched on 30 December 2024. Thereafter the satellites were successfully docked for the first time on 16 January 2025 at 06:20 AM and successfully undocked on 13 March 2025 at 09:20 AM. Further experiments are planned in the next two weeks," the Minister posted on X.

Docking satellites

Earlier this year, India became the fourth country after the U.S., Russia, and China to conduct the docking experiment.

The SpaDeX mission is an important project by the ISRO. It is designed to develop and demonstrate the technology needed for spacecraft rendezvous, docking, and undocking using two small satellites.

The demonstration of this technology is essential for future missions, such as sending an Indian astronaut to the moon, returning samples from the moon, and the building and operation of an Indian space station. The other aims of the mission include demonstration of the transfer of electric power between the docked spacecraft, which is essential for future applications, such as in-space robotics, composite spacecraft control, and payload operations after undocking.

Railways plans to fence tracks to curb trespassing

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

The Railways has proposed to fence tracks across the country to avoid hazards of trespassing. As a pilot measure, more than 3,500 km of tracks have already been fenced, the Southern Railway said in a note.

Responding to the report "Vande Bharat has weak defences against even cows: Safety Report" published in *The Hindu* on Monday, the zone said the trains were designed with modern coupling design, which transmitted the impact energy throughout the train. For additional safety, there was a cattle guard at the front to deflect anything that came on the track.

It said Vande Bharat trains had 'Kavach' and other built-in safety devices. The braking system was modern and fully integrated with the safety system.

Mahagathbandhan's rank and file to meet ahead of Bihar polls

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Ringing in the election season in Bihar, leaders of the Opposition parties in the *Mahagathbandhan,* or the grand alliance, have lined up a tight schedule of meetings for both their leaders and the parties' ranks.

Ahead of Prime Minister Narendra Modi's visit to Madhubani on Thursday, the leaders of the *Mahagathbandhan* will meet in Patna on Wednesday and Thursday. This will be followed by a convention for district functionaries of all the allied parties in the State capital on May 4.

At the previous meeting on April 17, during which Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) MP and the Leader of the Opposition in the Bihar Assembly Tejashwi Yadav was appointed the coordinator for the coalition, it was also decided that the alliance should work in lockstep, every step of the way.

The campaign should not be reduced into an RJD versus NDA battle alone, sources said. Many see the gathering of the *Mahagathbandhan*'s leadership as a preliminary meeting at which each of the allies could lay out their claims. However, seat-sharing talks were still a long way off, a RJD leader said.

"The meeting is to deliberate on our common agenda, and to come up with an assessment of the two decade-long reign of [Bihar CM] Nitish Kumar and the BJP in the State," the RJD leader said.

It has also been decided that the alliance should come up with a common minimum programme.

Sources said the Congress and the Communist Party of India-Marxist-Leninist (CPI-ML) want the seat sharing formula to be worked out at the earliest.

'Civil services should get credit for smooth transfer of power in India'

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

Cabinet Secretary T.V. Somanathan said on Monday that unlike other countries in the neighbourhood that have seen military coup and violent overthrow of governments, India has always seen a smooth transfer of power for which the credit should go to the All India Services (AIS) and the civil services officials.

He said it was the duty of the civil services to preserve the constitutional order such as democracy, rule of law, national unity and the federal structure.

The Indian Administrative Service (IAS) officer said that in a democracy, it is the elected government which has the mandate, and it is the duty of the civil servant to assist the government in carrying out its policies. He said the officers should be politically neutral "because we don't serve only those who belong to some particular party or a community."

T.V. Somanathan

Need for competence

Speaking on the occasion of Civil Services Day, Mr. Somanathan added that lateral entry will be a necessity in future and there was a need for greater competence and subject matter expertise among civil servants as the era of the good generalist was over.

"I think without the All India Services and the central services, free and fair elections would not be possible. Governments have been defeated both at the Centre and in the States in elections conducted by civil servants. We have smooth transfer of power whenever a government changes. We don't have tanks on the streets when there's a change of government. We also have imposition of President's Rule, which passes off with no problem at all... That is because of the civil services. So, this is an unqualified success," the country's top bureaucrat said during an interactive session on Civil Services Reforms - Challenges and Opportunities.

He said that ever since transparency was introduced in the Annual Performance Assessment Report system for the AIS officers, it had become useless. "And particularly in IAS, this is a disease. Everybody is between 9 and 10 (rating)... There are crooks in our service. There are bad people in the service. How can everybody be 9 to 10," Mr. Somanathan asked while responding to an Uttar Pradesh cadre IAS officer who suggested transparency in empanelment process of officers at joint secretary rank and above.

When Bidur Kant Jha, an officer appointed in the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways through the lateral entry mode, asked about the low salary structure, the Cabinet Secretary remarked, "Pay is not part of today's discussion.... you give it to the Pay Commission when it comes, but we are not talking about pay and benefits. So, if we are underpaid, we have alternative careers. We can pursue them."

Earlier, while inaugurating the conference, Prime Minister Narendra Modi said that India's bureaucracy and policymaking cannot operate on outdated frameworks.

EPFO adds 7.39 lakh new members in February

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation on Monday said it has enrolled 7.39 lakh new subscribers in February.

The pension fund authority made a net addition of 16.10 lakh members in the month, adding 3.99% in net payroll additions compared with February 2024. The EPFO said the data signify increased employment opportunities and heightened awareness of employee benefits.

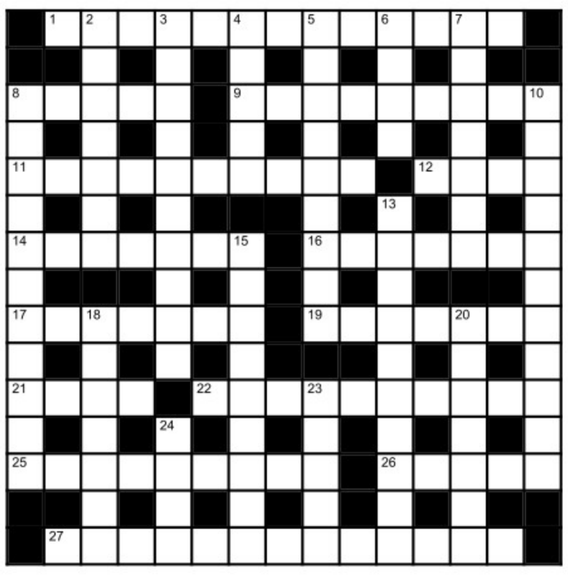
"A noticeable aspect of the data is the dominance of the 18-25 age group, 4.27 lakh new subscribers added in the 18-25 age group, constituting a significant 57.71% of the total new subscribers added in February 2025," the EPFO said in a statement. The net payroll addition for the 18-25 age group for the month is approximately 6.78 lakh.

TH CROSSWORD + 14465

(set by Dr. X)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Apricots aren't fresh in stall (13)
8 Nut in English club, enthralled by pot (5)
9/14 What factory inspector might do to endure difficulties (2,7,3,4)
11 Endlessly intoxicated, rambling in state of agitation (10)
12 Bit pale, lacking energy (4)
14 See 9
16 Fierce culmination of climate changes - not frozen over in winter (3-4)
17 Information on origin of epileptic convulsion relating to heredity (7)
19 Wild at first, son in band becomes mature (5,2)
21 Starts to observe very unusually mutated egg cell (4)
22 Fling with lady in control turned more delightful (10)
25 Tireless nurse is out, frantically saving patient at centre (9)
26 Located small improvised explosive device outside bar (5)
27 Making out with stunning redhead slyly when he's away (13)

Down

2 Recover from cold, tucking into celery salad (7)
3 Checks firm involved in swindles (10)
4 Try technique to master slang (5)
5 Loves wearing lace, making an impression on people? (9)
6 Charged about 500 for ancient aromatic ointment (4)
7 Ego hurt easily? Becoming more resilient (7)
8 Impressive in sack? Gossip is mostly true (11)
10 Explosive in the tempo, built by revolutionary (3-8)
13 Appreciated medley of disco genre (10)
15 Most contemptible person consuming ecstasy with songstress is lewd (9)
18 New running route close to town - it's free of charge (7)
20 Bowled over by model stealing money bag in retreat (7)
23 Panorama in Kiev is tantalising (5)
24 Con peddled ecstasy previously (4)

SUDOKU

	3			8				2
				1		5	6	9
					4		8	
		1					5	
		7	5		8	3		
	9					4		
	2		7					
8	1	9		5				
5				6			9	

No.SS6497 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★☆☆☆

Solution to previous puzzle

D	E	S	C	R	I	B	E	■
E	■	A	■	U	■	U	■	O
D	E	B	A	S	E	S	■	N
U	■	B	■	T	■	M	■	T
C	O	A	T	I	■	A	D	H
E	■	T	■	C	■	N	■	E
■	■	■	R	A	G	S	T	O
E	■	S	■	T	■	H	■	F
M	A	T	T	E	R	O	F	F
A	■	A	■	■	■	L	■	C
C	A	V	E	N	D	I	S	H
I	■	E	■	U	■	D	■	A
A	N	O	S	M	I	A	■	N
T	■	F	■	B	■	Y	■	C
E	F	F	U	S	E	■	H	E

R	A	I	S	I	N	■	■	■
N	■	C	■	E	■	■	■	■
N	I	G	E	R	I	A	■	■
E	■	U	■	R	■	■	■	■
D	H	E	R	E	N	C	E	■
■	■	C	■	A	■	■	■	■
S	T	O	R	I	C	H	E	S
■	■	N	■	Y	■	T	■	■
A	C	T	■	■	■	■	■	■
■	■	U	■	E	■	L	■	■
R	A	I	S	E	■	■	■	■
■	■	R	■	G	■	T	■	■
N	E	I	T	H	E	R	■	■
■	■	C	■	N	■	T	■	I
H	E	D	G	E	H	O	P	■

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	7	3	6	2	9	8	5	1
1	2	6	5	8	4	3	7	9
9	8	5	1	7	3	2	6	4
2	6	7	4	3	8	1	9	5
3	1	4	9	5	7	6	2	8
8	5	9	2	6	1	7	4	3
6	3	8	7	9	5	4	1	2
7	9	1	3	4	2	5	8	6
5	4	2	8	1	6	9	3	7

FAITH

Listening to Bhagavatham

Sri Damodara Dikshitar said in a discourse that as not even the headless needle will accompany us on our eternal journey, we should develop detachment. Detachment from desires will arise only by constant practice (*Abhyasa Vairagya*). Peace of mind will not exist when a person fails to perform his duty. Only a systematic and controlled life is called dharma, which alone yields calmness. Remaining tranquil leads to happiness. Pacification is the permanent peace of mind, which is called bliss. Srimad Bhagavatham narrates more about these things and the bliss.

Sage Veda Vyasa thought about the easiest way for people to follow – whether poojas, homams, meditation, alms-giving, recitation of the Vedas or listening to Godly deeds and His qualities. The sage chose the last medium, and keeping this in mind, he composed the Bhagavatham so that ordinary people could listen easily and derive God's blessings.

Sage Narada told Veda Vyasa that he was an ordinary child in his previous birth, born to a maid rendering service at the ashramas of various rishis. His mother used to take him along with her. Listening to the good stories about God narrated by the rishis, he was destined to be born as a great sage. The sage had a unique feature that everyone lauded him. He tendered advice to Prahlada as well as to the demon Kamsa. He blessed Valmiki with sacred mantras. Also, he extended counselling to Ravana. Sage Narada was blessed to travel anywhere in the universe. In practice, the Bhagavatham is recited for seven days, a system called "*Sapthaham*." Sage Sukha told Bhagavatham to King Parikshit for seven days.

INBRIEF

RBI permits minors above 10 to operate bank accounts

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) on Monday permitted banks to allow minors above the age of 10 years to open and operate savings/ term deposit accounts independently. Minors of any age may be allowed to open and operate savings and term deposit accounts through his/ her natural or legal guardian, RBI said in a circular addressed to commercial banks and cooperative banks. They may also be allowed to open such accounts with their mother as guardian. PTI

Mahindra Group rejigs senior leadership across businesses

The Mahindra Group has announced changes in senior leadership across businesses. Hemant Sikka, currently president, Farm Equipment Sector, has been appointed as MD & CEO of Mahindra Logistics. Veejay Nakra, president – Automotive Division, will be appointed as president – Farm Equipment Business. R. Velusamy, president, Automotive Technology and Product Development, will be appointed as president of Automotive Business.

GST officers detect fraudulent ITC passing worth ₹61,545 cr.

Central and state GST officers have detected 25,009 fake firms involved in fraudulently passing input tax credit (ITC) worth ₹61,545 crore during 2024-25, officials said. During the 2024-25 fiscal ending March 2025, officers recovered ₹1,924 crore by way of blocking ITC and arrested 168 persons. Under the GST regime, ITC refers to the taxes paid by businesses on purchases from suppliers. This tax can be claimed as a credit or deduction while paying the final output tax. PTI

Gold nears ₹1 lakh-mark on trade war, weak dollar

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Gold prices inched closer to the psychological mark of ₹1 lakh per 10 grams as the bullion rates surged ₹1,650 in the national capital on Monday on weak dollar and uncertainties over U.S.-China trade war driving demand.

According to the All India Sarafa Association, the yellow metal of 99.9% purity reached ₹99,800 per 10 grams on Monday.

Its value had declined ₹20 to close at ₹98,150 per 10 grams on Friday. Gold of 99.5% purity bounced ₹1,600 to hit a fresh peak of ₹99,300 per 10 grams in the local markets.

India imposes 12% temporary tariff on steel imports

The move to levy the 'safeguard duty' is aimed at restricting unbridled imports, says a government notification; FinMin says tariffs will be applicable for 200 days with effect from Monday

Reuters
NEW DELHI

India imposed a 12% temporary tariff, locally known as a safeguard duty, on some steel products to stem unbridled imports, a government notification said on Monday.

India, the world's second-biggest producer of crude steel, said the tariffs would be applicable for 200 days with effect from Monday. "The safeguard duty imposed under this notification shall be effective for a period of two hundred days (unless revoked, superseded or amended earlier) from the date of publication of this notification," the Ministry of Finance said.

Steely resolve: New Delhi's tariffs are primarily aimed at China, which was the second-biggest exporter of steel to India. REUTERS

India's steel tariff increase is its first big trade policy move since U.S. President Donald Trump imposed a wide range of duties on countries in April.

New Delhi's tariffs are primarily aimed at China, which was the second-biggest exporter of steel to India behind South Korea in 2024/25. India was a net importer of finished steel for the second consecutive year in the 2024/25 fiscal year, with shipments reaching a nine-year high of 9.5 million metric tons, according to provisional government data.

Welcoming the move, T. V. Narendran, CEO & MD, Tata Steel said, "This is a critical step in addressing the surge of unfairly priced imports to India."

(With inputs from Lalatendu Mishra in Mumbai)

'Kin of insider trading norm violators also to face PAN freeze'

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

The trading windows of immediate relatives of those involved in insider trading will also be closed, the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) said in a circular on Monday.

In an earlier circular dated September 23, 2024, SEBI directed stock exchanges to develop a system to restrict trading by designated persons (DP) of listed companies.

This would be done by stock exchanges by freezing the PAN of DPs. DP refers to anyone who might be in possession of Unpublished Price Sensitive Information (UPSI).

The latest circular comes a week after SEBI suspended Gensol Engineering and its promoters from trading after the regulator found that funds borrowed for business purposes were misappropriated and fake disclosures about the loan default were made to credit rating agencies.

'Rare trend': Nifty up 1% for fourth time in 5 positive days

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Nifty 50 closed 1.15% as banking stocks increased on Monday. Analysts attributed the strong earnings reported by banks and some IT companies over the weekend behind the upturn. The corresponding sectoral indices showed an over 3% rise.

In what experts described as a rare trend, the benchmark Nifty 50 was up more than 1% in four out of the past five trading sessions where the returns were positive. This is the

This is the sixth time the markets have shown such a trend in the past decade

sixth time the markets have shown such a trend in the past decade. "In the past decade, we've had five similar signals and all of them were seen during the COVID crash," said Akshay Chinchalkar, Head of Research and Content at Axis Securities.

The pattern was noticed on May 27, July 15, and then for 3 straight days between November 3 and 5 in 2020.

"Five days after the signal, the market was higher by an average of 1.6%, 20 days later, it was up 5.1% and in about two months, it had returned 15.7% to the investor, triggering the bull market that then led to an increase in retail investor participation," Mr. Chinchalkar said.

"As all of them occurred in 2020, the message is very clear – this kind of movement tends to cluster during periods of strong momentum peppered with high volatility," Mr. Chinchalkar observed.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	MONDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	79,408	1.09
US Dollar	85.15	0.26
Gold	99,800	1.68
Brent oil	66.01	–

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2442.70	24.60
Adani Ports	1243.10	-16.30
Apollo Hosp	7142.50	69.00
Asian Paints	2445.00	-22.90
Axis Bank	1223.00	32.20
Bajaj Auto	8247.50	229.50
Bajaj Finserv	2103.50	68.20
Bajaj Finance	9273.50	111.00
Bharat Elec	299.95	4.80
Bharti Airtel	1883.40	-5.70
Cipla	1511.10	-4.10
Coal India	400.50	1.65
Dr Reddys Lab	1177.40	13.80
Eicher Motors	5810.50	132.00
Eternal Ltd.	234.24	2.64
Grasim Ind	2756.90	-3.80
HCL Tech	1482.00	44.00
HDFC Bank	1927.10	20.40
HDFC Life	712.20	-7.85
Hero MotoCorp	3917.00	145.20
Hindalco	622.00	12.50
Hind Unilever	2351.00	-24.00
ICICI Bank	1409.80	3.10
IndusInd Bank	828.20	33.50
Infosys	1451.00	31.50
ITC	422.85	-4.40
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	246.38	-0.09
JSW Steel	1034.00	26.80
Kotak Bank	2241.40	53.30
L&T	3280.50	33.20
M&M	2764.00	84.60
Maruti Suzuki	11745.00	50.00
NestleIndia	2399.40	-17.20
NTPC	364.55	0.55
ONGC	249.78	6.29
PowerGrid Corp	320.00	11.00
Reliance Ind	1295.50	21.00
SBI Life	1628.50	20.30
State Bank	816.70	19.25
Shriram Finance Ltd.	703.00	11.25
Sun Pharma	1744.90	-6.60
TataConsumerProduct	1121.00	0.80
Tata Motors	630.05	8.50
Tata Steel	139.18	2.04
TCS	3321.60	22.70
Tech Mahindra	1373.50	66.70
Titan	3336.10	8.60
Trent Ltd.	5360.00	229.50
UltraTech Cement	11934.00	33.00
Wipro	238.45	1.55

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on April 21

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	84.93	85.25
Euro	98.05	98.42
British Pound	113.77	114.20
Japanese Yen (100)	60.33	60.56
Chinese Yuan	11.65	11.70
Swiss Franc	105.44	105.85
Singapore Dollar	65.15	65.41
Canadian Dollar	61.50	61.76
Malaysian Ringitt	19.42	19.52
Australian Dollar	54.56	54.77

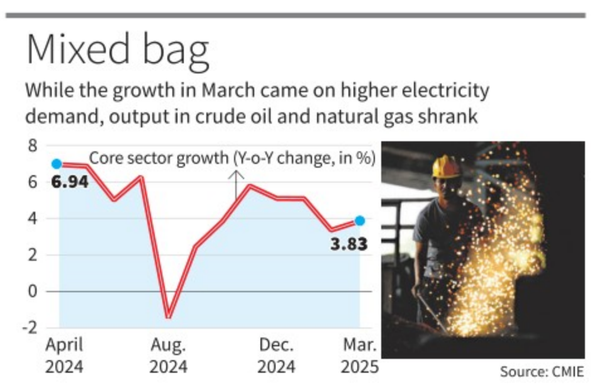
Source:Indian Bank

March core sector output rises 3.8%; slips to 4.4% in FY25 vs. 7.6% in FY24

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Core sector growth came in at 3.8% as electricity output increased on early onset of summer in March, compared with 3.4% rise in February, according to data from the Commerce and Industry Ministry.

Output in electricity sector, constituting 19.85% of the core-sector basket, grew 3 percentage points to 6.2% in March. "Electricity growth was at 6.2% with higher demand due to an early onset of summer characterised by the heat waves in several parts of the country. This came on top of 8.2% growth in March 2024," wrote Madan Sabnavis chief economist, Bank of Baroda, in a note.



However, sectoral trends exhibited a mixed bag, as output in two sectors continued to shrink.

Crude oil output shrank for the third consecutive month contracting 1.9% in March against a steeper decline of 5.2% in the previous month. Natural gas output shrank for nine straight months with a steep 12.7% dip in March.

Cement, whose output grew 0.8 percentage points to 11.6%, was the only sector where the growth was in double digits. Steel output grew 7.1% in the month under review.

"While most of the increase in production can be attributed to higher government spending during the end of the year, the fact that private sector investment announcements rose sharply in Q4 also supports this growth in demand for steel," Mr. Sabnavis wrote.

Year-on-year drop

However, core sector output grew at 4.4% in FY25, down from 7.6% in F24, the slowest in four years. Output growth in almost all sectors slowed with two of them , crude oil and natural gas shrinking.

To be sure, core sector growth covers 40.27% of the Index of Industrial Production (IIP).

LG, Samsung 'sue' Centre on e-waste pricing policy

Reuters
NEW DELHI

South Korea's LG and Samsung sued India's government to quash a policy which raises payouts to electronic-waste recyclers, court filings show, joining other major firms in contesting the country's environmental rules citing business impact.

The lawsuits, set to be heard on Tuesday with other challenges, mark an escalation of a standoff involving foreign companies' and Prime Minister Narendra Modi's government over its stance towards waste management practices.

LG and Samsung did not respond to *Reuters*' requests for comment. India's Environment Ministry also did not respond.

India is the third-biggest e-waste generator behind China and the U.S., but the government says only 43% of the e-waste last year was recycled and at least 80% of the sector comprises informal scrap dealers. Daikin, Havells and Tata's Voltas have already sued Modi's administration.

Samsung and LG lobbied against a decision to fix floor price payable to recyclers which New Delhi says is needed to get invite more formal players into the sector and boost recycling investments.

Tata unit to supply 131 MW green power to Tata Motor plants

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Tata Motors Ltd. has signed a power purchase agreement (PPA) with Tata Power Renewable Energy Ltd., a subsidiary of Tata Power, for co-development of a 131 MW wind-solar hybrid energy project which will supply green, cost-effective energy exclusively to Tata Motors' six plants in Maharashtra and Gujarat making commercial and passenger vehicles.

This is part of Tata Motors' sustainability roadmap, which is aligned with its broader ambition to achieve Net-Zero goal.

The project will supply cost effective energy.

"This project reinforces commitment to integrate renewable energy into our operations and reduce carbon footprint while meeting RE-100 goals," said Vishal Badshah, VP - operations, commercial vehicles, Tata Motors.

WASHINGTON

'U.S. defence chief shared sensitive information in second Signal chat'

AFP

U.S. Defense Secretary Pete Hegseth shared details of U.S. air strikes on Yemen, including F/A-18 Hornet flight schedules, in a private Signal chat with his wife, brother, and personal lawyer, the *New York Times* and *CNN* reported on Sunday. Mr. Hegseth has, however, denied leaking sensitive details. AFP

DUBAI

U.S. air strikes killed 12 people in Yemen's capital, say Houthi rebels

REUTERS

U.S. air strikes on Yemen's capital killed 12 and wounded 30, according to Houthi rebels. The strike hit Sanaa's Farwa neighbourhood market. Additional strikes targeted Amran, Hodeida, Marib, and Saada. Last week, U.S. strikes on Ras Isa fuel port killed at least 74. AP

SANTIAGO

Gunmen attack Chinese-owned hydroelectric power plant in Chile

ISTOCKPHOTO

Gunmen attacked a Chinese-owned hydroelectric plant under construction in Chile on Sunday, setting fire to 45 trucks and several heavy equipment. Two security guards were wounded. China condemned the attack and is working with Chile on protection and investigation. The incident is deemed "terrorist in nature". AFP

BEIJING

China warns countries against making trade deals with the U.S.

AP

China warned countries like Taiwan, Japan, and S. Korea against making trade deals with the U.S. that harm Chinese interests. After Trump's sweeping tariffs, Beijing vowed countermeasures if sidelined. China's Commerce Ministry said it would never accept deals at its expense and promised reciprocal action. AP

Francis backed reforms but also drew strong opposition

Advocating for migrants was one of Francis's priorities as Pope; he also signalled a welcoming stance toward LGBTQ+ people, declaring 'Who am I to judge?' when asked about a gay priest

Associated Press
VATICAN CITY

As Buenos Aires archbishop, Jorge Mario Bergoglio, who would later become the head of the Catholic Church, denied himself the luxuries his predecessors enjoyed, riding the bus, cooking his own meals and regularly visiting slums. This simplicity continued as pope, marked by Francis taking the name of the 13th century saint known for personal simplicity. He lived in the Vatican hotel instead of the Apostolic Palace, wore his old orthotic shoes and not the red loafers of the papacy, and used compact cars.

Advocating for migrants was one of Francis' priorities as Pope. His first trip outside Rome in 2013 was to the Sicilian island of Lampedusa to meet with newly arrived migrants. He denounced the "globalisation of indifference" shown to would-be refugees. He prayed for dead migrants at the U.S.-Mexico border in 2016 and brought 12 Syrian Muslims to Rome on his plane after visiting a refugee camp in Lesbos, Greece. His plea for welcome put him at odds with U.S. and European policies. He said in 2016 of then-candidate Trump that anyone building a wall to keep migrants out "is not a Christian".

Leading example: Pope Francis kneels before a priest to confess, during a penitential liturgy in St. Peter's Basilica at the Vatican. AP

Early in his papacy, Francis signalled a more welcoming stance toward LGBTQ+ people, declaring "Who am I to judge?" when asked about a gay priest. In a 2023 *Associated Press* interview, he declared that, "Being homosexual is not a crime", and later approved blessings for same-sex couples, provided they don't resemble marriage vows.

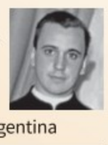
Francis became the first pope to use scientific data in a major teaching document and made care for God's creation a hallmark of his papacy. In 2015, his environmental manifesto "Praised Be," urged a cultural revolution to correct what he called the "structurally perverse" global economic system that exploits the poor and turned Earth into "an immense pile of filth".

In his first years as pope, critics had a living alternative in Pope Benedict XVI, who had resigned and was living on the Vatican grounds. That amplified the right-wing opposition to Francis's reform agenda. Some called him a heretic after he opened the way in 2016 to letting divorced and civilly remarried Catholics receive Communion.

Life and times of **Pope Francis**

The leader of the Catholic Church, known for his reform agenda, died on Monday at age 88

Dec 17, 1936: Born Jorge Mario Bergoglio in Buenos Aires, son of Italian immigrants to Argentina



1958: Joins Jesuits after recovering from losing part of right lung during severe bout of pneumonia

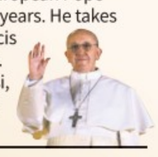
1969: Ordained as priest

1998: Named Archbishop of Buenos Aires

2001: Appointed Cardinal by Pope John Paul II

Feb 28, 2013: Pope Benedict XVI steps down due to health concerns – first pontiff to do so in six centuries

Mar 13: Conclave of Cardinals elects Bergoglio as 266th successor to St. Peter, becoming the first non-European Pope in nearly 1,300 years. He takes the name Francis in honour of St. Francis of Assisi, patron saint of the poor



May 2015: Issues Laudato Si' – influential encyclical calling for action on climate change and environmental protection

Sep: Visits U.S., becoming first Pope to address Congress

Feb 2016: Meets **Kirill** in first-ever meeting between leaders of Roman Catholic and Russian Orthodox churches

April: In a document on family life, Francis urged the clergy to be more accepting of homosexuals, single parents, divorced people

Sep 2018: Announces first-ever agreement between China and Holy See over Bishop appointments

Feb 2019: Visits Abu Dhabi for first-ever papal trip to the Arabian peninsula and signs declaration of fraternity with Sunni Islam's highest authority, Sheikh Ahmed al-Tayeb

Francis convenes Vatican landmark summit on combating child sex abuse within the Catholic church

Mar 2021: Makes first ever visit by pontiff to Iraq and meets Grand Ayatollah Ali al-Sistani, spiritual leader of millions of Shia Muslims

Jul 2022: Makes "penitential trip" to Canada to apologise to Indigenous survivors of abuse and for attempts at forced assimilation at church-run residential schools

Oct 2023: Allows women to vote at Synod of Bishops for first time

Dec: Permits priests to bless same-sex couples under condition that blessings not be administered during rituals or liturgies

Sep 2024: Makes longest trip of his tenure to the Asia Pacific, visiting Indonesia, Papua New Guinea, East Timor and Singapore

Jan 2025: Francis appoints **Sister Simona Brambilla** to head the Vatican department overseeing religious orders – first woman to lead an office of Holy See

Releases "Hope" – first ever memoir by a sitting Pope

Feb 14: Admitted to hospital for bronchitis that develops into double pneumonia. He is discharged after five weeks

Apr 21: Pope Francis, 88, dies one day after appearing in St. Peter's Square to wish "Happy Easter" to thousands of worshippers

Israel wants to 'undermine' nuclear talks with U.S., says Iran

Agence France-Presse
TEHRAN

Iran accused Israel on Monday of seeking to "undermine" ongoing talks with the United States on its nuclear programme, a key point of tension with the West.

"A kind of coalition is forming... to undermine and disrupt the diplomatic process," Iranian Foreign Ministry spokesperson Esmail Baqaei told reporters, saying Israel was behind the effort.

"Alongside it are a series of warmongering currents in the United States and figures from different factions," the spokesperson added.

The *New York Times* reported on Thursday that U.S. President Donald Trump had dissuaded Israel from striking Iran's nuclear sites in the short term. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has insisted that Israel would never allow Iran to acquire nuclear weapons.

Iran has always denied the charge, insisting its nuclear programme is for civilian purposes only.

Russia strikes Ukraine after Easter truce

Agence France-Presse
KYIV

Russia launched a wave of aerial attacks on Ukraine on Monday in an abrupt end to a fragile 30-hour Easter truce between the two sides. No injuries had been reported in the attacks.

The renewed strikes, confirmed by both Moscow and Kyiv, cast doubt on Donald Trump's hopes for a broader ceasefire between the two sides, hours after the U.S. President said he hoped a "deal" could be struck this week.

Each side had in any case accused the other of thousands of violations of the ceasefire, announced by Russian President Vladimir Putin on Saturday.

Bangladesh's Islamists demand abolition of women's commission

Agence France-Presse
DHAKA

Bangladesh's influential Islamist coalition has demanded the abolition of a government women's commission, a further indication of how hardline, religiously fuelled activism is strengthening after years of suppression.

The women's commission is part of efforts to reform systems installed during the iron-fisted rule of Shiekh Hasina, who was overthrown by student-led mass protests in August 2024.

Hefazat-e-Islam, a platform of religious seminaries, wants the cancellation of the Women's Affairs Reforms Commission, set up by the caretaker government of Mohammed Yunus.

Azizul Haque Islamabadi, a senior Hefazat-e-Islam leader, said the group opposed the commission's recommendation for ending discriminatory provisions against women.

"The commission recommended a uniform family code instead of Muslim family law."

Sport

Pranav emerges fastest; Sachin wins javelin gold

ATHLETICS

Stan Rayan
KOCHI

Pranav Pramod Gurav felt a bit of a shiver as he lined up for the men's 100m final in the 28th National Federation Athletics Championships at the Maharaja's Stadium here on Monday evening.

With four of the six fastest Indian men in history, it was the perhaps the strongest-ever field in a major national competition and Pranav did not give himself much of a chance.

But the 23-year-old Railway athlete from Pune shocked national record holder Gurindervir Singh, former record holder Manikanta Hoblidhar and National Games champion Animesh Kujur to stunningly take the gold in a personal best 10.27s.

Stunning victory: Pranav, right, shocked a strong field to clinch the sprint gold. R.K. NITHIN

A bit restless, Gurindervir did not have a good start but Pranav had a great one.

He was slightly ahead by the 60m mark and finished with a smart dip. Animesh (10.32s) took the silver while Manikanta, who broke the meet record in the semifinal and achieved the AFI's Asian Championship qualification clocking 10.25s, was third in 10.35. Gurindervir (national record 10.20s) appeared to limp at the finish and ended up last.

"I dedicate this gold to my grandfather who is in ICU in a Pune hospital," said Pranav. "I've been finishing second often in major competitions, I didn't expect this gold. With so many fast runners, I expected a national record today but that didn't happen."

Sachin. R.K.NITHIN

Telangana's Nithya Gandhe was the fastest woman in 11.50s.

National Games champion Sachin Yadav, the world's fifth best javelin thrower this year, won with a fifth-round effort of 83.86m while Yashvir Singh (80.85m) was second. The top seven finishers made the cut for next month's Asian Championship in Gumi, South Korea.

The results (winners only):
Men: 100m: Pranav Gurav (Rly) 10.27s; **1500m:** Yoonus Shah (JSW) 3:41.93s.
10,000m: Sawan Barwal (Army) 28:57.13s MR, OR Surendra Singh's 28:57.90; **javelin throw:** Sachin Yadav (UP) 83.86m.
Women: 100m: Nithya Gandhe (Tel) 11.50s; **1500m:** Lili Das (Utk) 4:10.88s; **10,000m:** Sanjivani Jadav (Mah) 33:44.43s; **pole vault:** Pavithra Venkatesh (TN) 4m.

Humpy bests Zhu, takes over the lead; Divya in joint second spot

CHESS

P.K. Ajith Kumar
PUNE

In what was always likely to be the most important game of the fifth leg of the FIDE Women's Grand Prix, Koneru Humpy got the better of Zhu Jiner. With that vital win in the seventh round at the Amanora-The Fern, the top-seeded Indian snatched the sole lead from her Chinese rival, seeded second.

Humpy has 5.5 points with just two rounds remaining. After her first loss, Zhu, who remains on five points, has slipped to the second spot, where she is joined by Divya Deshmukh, who registered a crushing win against Munguntuul Batkhuyag of Mongolia. As expected, it was a keenly fought encounter on the day's main board, which saw Queen's Indian Defence.

Crucial win: Divya, left, got the better of Batkhuyag. P.K. AJITH KUMAR

But Zhu blundered a piece on the 44th move. There was hardly anything to play for Black after that, and she gave up another 11 moves later.

The results (seventh round):
Nurgyul Salimova (Bul) 3 drew with Salome Melia (Geo)2 .
R. Vaishali 3 drew with Alina Kashlinskaya (Pol) 2.
Koneru Humpy 5.5 bt Zhu Jiner (Chn) 5; Divya Deshmukh 5 bt Munguntuul Batkhuyag 2.
Polina Shuvalova (Rus) 4 drew with D. Harika 3.5.

EYE ON FUTURE

If we don't qualify, need to get a secured XI for next year: Dhoni

EMMANUAL YOGINI

When we are not playing good cricket what is important is not to get too emotional about it and at the same time you want to be practical. You don't want too many players getting changed... what will be important is to try and qualify, but if not, get a secured XI for next year and come back strong — CSK skipper M.S. Dhoni.

ON HOLD

Injured Samson to miss RCB game, will continue rehab in Jaipur

SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

Rajasthan Royals confirmed that skipper Sanju Samson will miss the upcoming away game against RCB as he continues his recovery from the side strain he suffered during the game against Delhi Capitals. The Royals medical staff hasn't set a date for Samson's return.

FIRST-HAND KNOWLEDGE

Vipraj looks to make the most of home comfort

SANDEEP SAXENA

The UP T20 league was held here (Lucknow). Me, Sameer (Rizvi), we have an idea of this ground, we will look to repeat the processes of the UP T20 league — local boy Vipraj Nigam looking to make the most of home comfort and tap into his experience when DC takes on host LSG on Tuesday.

ADDITIONAL INPUTS

'Capitals have access to insights from Rahul about LSG, ground'

SANDEEP SAXENA

Delhi Capitals will have access to insights from K.L. Rahul, who led Lucknow Super Giants for three seasons, and has a good grip on his former team and the ground. "There are some players with whom he [Rahul] has played at LSG. We speak about that during team meetings. He has a good idea," said DC's Vipraj Nigam.

Style and substance: Gill slammed 10 boundaries and three sixes in his knock of 90. RITU RAJ KONWAR

GT consolidates top spot with facile win

Openers Gill, Sai Sudharsan put on a century stand to lay the platform for the visiting team; Knight Riders suffer a second successive loss

IPL-18

Y.B. Sarangi
KOLKATA

Captain Shubman Gill and Sai Sudharsan proved their class with excellent knocks as table-topper Gujarat Titans outplayed defending champion Kolkata Knight Riders by 39 runs to record its sixth victory in IPL 2025 at the Eden Gardens here on Monday.

The right-left opening pair's century stand helped GT, put in to bat, accumulate 198 for three. KKR ended up with 159 for eight to taste its second successive defeat, and third in four home matches in front of a packed house.

Earlier, with Vaibhav Arora and Moeen Ali sharing the new ball, KKR did not let GT gain much ground.

As the ball stopped a bit, Gill and Sai Sudharsan, adopting a risk-free approach, rotated the strike and punished the loose deliveries to gather 45 in the first six overs of PowerPlay.

Cutting loose

Gill (90, 55b, 10x4, 3x6) broke free in the seventh, plundering 17 runs, including a six and two fours consecutively, off Moeen to signal GT's acceleration.

On his former home ground, Gill, who took 12 balls to get his first boundary, was a treat to watch when he played the cuts and pulls.

An in-form Sudharsan (52, 36b, 6x4, 1x6) showed his range, finding the gaps spectacularly on the offside before producing fine hits on the onside.

Notwithstanding the humid conditions, the GT openers ran hard to frustrate the host in a 74-ball 114-run partnership.

Andre Russell broke the stand by having Orange Cap holder Sai Sudharsan, who scored his fifth fifty, caught behind.

Gill gathered 58 off 33 balls with a clean-hitting Jos Buttler (41 n.o., 23b, 8x4), who was dropped twice.

Gill, who was dismissed off a Vaibhav full-toss, missed out on a century.

KKR's reply was not ideal. Mohammed Siraj trapped wicketkeeper-batter Rahmanullah Gurbaz in front of the wicket and Rashid Khan removed Sunil Narine in the PowerPlay.

Mounting pressure

With the GT bowlers keeping it tight and fielders preventing boundaries for 36 deliveries in the middle overs, the required rate piled up.

Skipper Ajinkya Rahane's lone battle was in vain as KKR suffered its fifth loss in eight games.

Rashid and Prasidh Krishna shone for GT with a couple of wickets each.

SCOREBOARD

GUJARAT TITANS
B. Sai Sudharsan c Gurbaz b Russell 52 *(36b, 6x4, 1x6)*, Shubman Gill c Rinku b Vaibhav 90 *(55b, 10x4, 3x6)*, Jos Buttler (not out) 41 *(23b, 8x4)*, Rahul Tewatia c Ramandeep b Harshit 0 *(2b)*, M. Shahrukh Khan (not out) 11 *(5b, 1x6)*; Extras (nb-1, w-3): 4; Total (for three wkts. in 20 overs): 198.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-114 (Sai Sudharsan, 12.2), 2-172 (Gill, 17.5), 3-177 (Tewatia, 18.3).

KNIGHT RIDERS BOWLING
Vaibhav 4-0-44-1, Moeen 3-0-27-0, Harshit 4-0-45-1, Varun 4-0-33-0, Narine 4-0-36-0, Russell 1-0-13-1.

KOLKATA KNIGHT RIDERS
Rahmanullah Gurbaz lbw b Siraj 1 *(4b)*, Sunil Narine c Tewatia b Rashid 17 *(13b, 2x4, 1x6)*, Ajinkya Rahane st. Buttler b Washington 50 *(36b, 5x4, 1x6)*, Venkatesh Iyer c Washington b Sai Kishore 14 *(19b)*, Rinku Singh c Gill b Ishant 17 *(14b, 1x4, 1x6)*, Andre Russell st. Buttler b Rashid 21 *(15b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Ramandeep Singh c & b Prasidh 1 *(2b)*, Moeen Ali c Shahrukh b Prasidh 0 *(2b)*, Angkrish Raghuvanshi **(Impact Player for Vaibhav)** (not out) 27 *(13b, 3x4, 1x6)*, Harshit Rana (not out) 1 *(2b)*; Extras (lb-4, w-6): 10; Total (for eight wkts. in 20 overs): 159.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-2 (Gurbaz, 0.5), 2-43 (Narine, 5.3), 3-84 (Venkatesh, 11.3), 4-91 (Rahane, 12.3), 5-118 (Russell, 15.5), 6-119 (Ramandeep, 16.1), 7-119 (Moeen, 16.3), 8-151 (Rinku, 19.1).

TITANS BOWLING
Siraj 4-0-32-1, Ishant **(Impact Player for Rutherford)** 2-0-18-1, Prasidh 4-0-25-2, Rashid 4-0-25-2, Washington 3-0-36-1, Sai Kishore 3-0-19-1.

Toss: KKR; **PoM:** Gill.
Titans won by 39 runs.

Next assignment

KKR: April 26 vs **PBKS**
Kolkata, 7.30 p.m.

GT: April 28 vs **RR**
Jaipur, 7.30 p.m.

Race for the caps

ORANGE	Inns	Runs	HS	SR	50s
Sai Sudharsan (GT)	8	417	82	152.18	5
Pooran (LSG)	8	368	87*	205.58	4
Buttler (GT)	8	356	97*	165.58	3
Suryakumar (MI)	8	333	68*	162.43	2
Kohli (RCB)	8	322	73*	140.00	4

PURPLE	Inns	Wkts	BB	Econ	4W
Prasidh (GT)	8	16	4/41	7.24	1
Kuldeep (DC)	7	12	3/22	6.25	0
Noor (CSK)	8	12	4/18	7.66	1
Sai Kishore (GT)	8	12	3/30	8.22	0
Hazlewood (RCB)	8	12	3/14	8.39	0
Siraj (GT)	8	12	4/17	8.77	1
Shardul (LSG)	8	12	4/34	11.00	1

Till the KKR-GT match on April 21

Confident LSG eyes revenge against DC

Dhruva Prasad
LUCKNOW

A confident Lucknow Super Giants will eye revenge in its reverse fixture against Delhi Capitals in a tussle for the top spot in the IPL at the Ekana Cricket Stadium here on Tuesday.

Super Giants clinched a nervy two-run win against Rajasthan Royals in their previous match, courtesy Avesh Khan's pinpoint yorkers in the final over, and his battle with Capitals' yorker-king Mitchell Starc will be exciting.

However, it is the tantalising clash between two well-rounded spin-bowling units that could be decisive.

Digvesh Rathi, LSG's find of the season, has led the spin attack, with help from Ravi Bishnoi. The duo was instrumental in restricting Gujarat Titans to 180 after a first-wicket stand of 120.

Having experienced significant middle-overs slowdowns in its last two games, against Titans and Royals, Delhi will be wary of this spin combination.

However, a red-soil pitch is likely to be used, which may not favour the host as it has lost both its matches on this type of soil at the venue. Moreover, Delhi's spin trio of Kuldeep Yadav, skipper Axar Patel and local boy Vipraj Nigam can be a handful on any wicket.

Orange Cap holder Nicholas Pooran is a marauder of spin bowling, but has struggled against Kuldeep, scoring at a strike rate of just 105.71 while being dismissed five times in 11 innings.

LSG and DC will hope to see the return of Mayank Yadav and Faf du Plessis, respectively, from injury, and will take heart from the fact that both trained on match eve.

Today's match

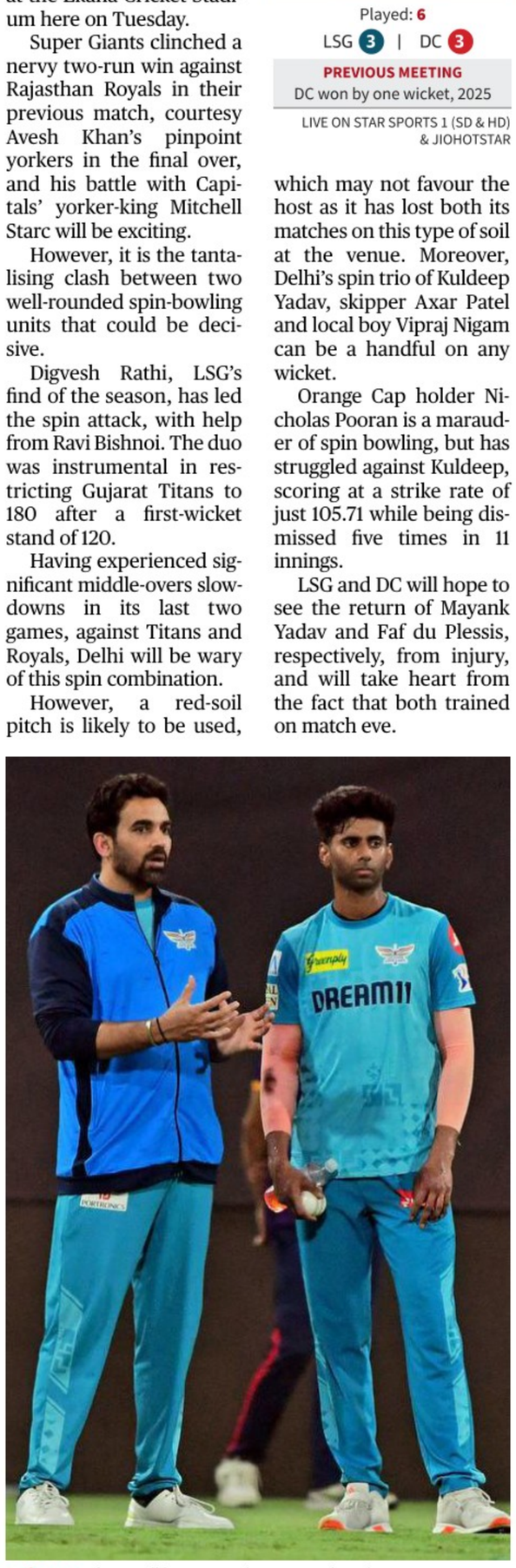
LUCKNOW SUPER GIANTS vs DELHI CAPITALS

Lucknow, 7.30 p.m.

HEAD-TO-HEAD
Played: 6
LSG 3 | DC 3

PREVIOUS MEETING
DC won by one wicket, 2025

LIVE ON STAR SPORTS 1 (SD & HD) & JIOHOTSTAR



In focus: Zaheer will hope speedster Mayank makes a much-awaited return. SANDEEP SAXENA

CSK will start planning for next season, says Fleming

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Just a solitary game into the latter half of the season and Chennai Super Kings has started planning for the next IPL edition. Head coach Stephen Fleming stated that the franchise will try and utilise the remaining matches to optimise its chances of grooming youngsters, should it formally bow out of the playoffs race.

"We are realistic about the position that we are in, but there will be no stone unturned looking for players and combinations for next year," Fleming said on Sunday.

"(It is) not a great opportunity because we want to be at the pointy end of the competition, but if it works out that there is no chance of us getting through (to the playoffs), we will certainly make the most of it."

Points table

	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
Gujarat Titans	8	6	2	12	1.104
Delhi Capitals	7	5	2	10	0.589
Royal Challengers	8	5	3	10	0.472
Punjab Kings	8	5	3	10	0.177
Lucknow Super Giants	8	5	3	10	0.088
Mumbai Indians	8	4	4	8	0.483
Kolkata Knight Riders	8	3	5	6	0.212
Rajasthan Royals	8	2	6	4	-0.633
Sunrisers Hyderabad	7	2	5	4	-1.217
Chennai Super Kings	8	2	6	4	-1.392

** Till the KKR-GT match on April 21*

Shreyas, Kishan return to BCCI central contract list

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Shreyas Iyer and Ishan Kishan have been handed a central contract while Rishabh Pant has been promoted from Grade B to A as the BCCI announced the list of 34 male cricketers with annual retainers for 2024-25.

The much-delayed contracted players' list from October 2024 to September 2025 was made public on Monday. While Shreyas expectedly returned to Grade B, Kishan made a surprise return to Grade C, which has 19 players.

The list:
Grade A+ (₹7 crore each): Rohit Sharma, Virat Kohli, Jasprit Bumrah, Ravindra Jadeja.
Grade A (₹5 crore each): Rishabh Pant, Mohammed Shami, Mohammed Siraj, K.L. Rahul, Shubman Gill, Hardik Pandya.
Grade B (₹3 crore each): Suryakumar Yadav, Kuldeep Yadav, Axar Patel, Shreyas Iyer, Yashasvi Jaiswal.
Grade C (₹1 crore each): Rinku Singh, Tilak Varma, Ruturaj Gaikwad, Shivam Dube, Ravi Bishnoi, Washington Sundar, Mukesh Kumar, Sanju Samson, Arshdeep Singh, Prasidh Krishna, Rajat Patidar, Dhruv Jurel, Sarfaraz Khan, Nitish Reddy, Ishan Kishan, Abhishek Sharma, Akash Deep, Varun Chakaravarthy, Harshit Rana.
In: Varun, Jurel, Sarfaraz, Nitish, Kishan, Abhishek, Harshit, Shreyas, Akash; **Out:** Shardul Thakur, Jitesh Sharma, K.S. Bharat, Avesh Khan, V. Vyshak, Umran Malik, Yash Dayal, Vidwath Kaverappa, R. Ashwin (retired).

Back in favour: Kishan has been placed in Grade C while Shreyas makes it to Grade B. FILE PHOTO: R.V. MOORTHY

An evening to remember for Duplantis and Biles

LAUREUS AWARDS

Press Trust of India
MADRID

Swedish pole vaulter Mondo Duplantis was named the 'World Sportsman of the Year', while American gymnast Simone Biles bagged the top women's honour at the 25th anniversary Laureus World Sports Awards here on Monday.

The 25-year-old Duplantis was fourth-time lucky after being nominated in each of the past three years. He became only the second track-and-field athlete after four-time winner Usain Bolt to claim the prestigious award.

Biles clinched three gold and one silver medal in a stunning comeback at the Paris Olympics to claim her fourth Laureus award – equalling the record held by Serena Williams.

Real Madrid was adjudged 'World Team of the Year', while Rafael Nadal was conferred the Laureus Sporting Icon Award.

List of awardees:
Sportsman of the Year: Mondo Duplantis; **Sportswoman of the Year:** Simone Biles; **Team of the Year:** Real Madrid; **Breakthrough of the Year:** Lamine Yamal; **Comeback of the Year:** Rebeca Andrade; **Sportsperson of the Year with a Disability:** Jiang Yuyan.

Action Sportsperson of the Year: Tom Pidcock; **Sport for Good:** Kick4Life; **Sporting Icon:** Rafael Nadal; **Lifetime Achievement:** Kelly Slater.

Well done, buddy! Djokovic congratulates Duplantis on winning his maiden statuette. GETTY IMAGES

INBRIEF

BISWARANJAN ROUT

Guarrotxena's triple strike helps FC Goa blank Gokulam

Iker Guarrotxena's hat-trick guided FC Goa to a 3-0 win over Gokulam Kerala FC and seal a quarterfinal berth in the Kalinga Super Cup in Bhubaneswar on Monday.

The result: FC Goa 3 (Guarrotxena 23', 35', 71') bt Gokulam Kerala FC 0.

Mehidy leads Bangladesh's fightback on the second day

Off-spinner Mehidy Hasan Miraz claimed five wickets as Bangladesh managed to restrict Zimbabwe to 273 for a 82-run lead on the second day of the first Test in Sylhet on Monday.

The scores: Bangladesh 191 and 57/1 in 13 overs vs Zimbabwe 273 in 80.2 overs (Brian Bennett 57, Sean Williams 59, Mehidy Hasan Miraz 5/52).

Real Madrid squeezes out a victory over Bilbao

Real Madrid's Federico Valverde netted a late volley to secure a 1-0 home win over Athletic Bilbao on Sunday that keeps it within four points of LaLiga leader Barcelona. In Serie A, Atalanta came away with a 1-0 win over AC Milan. Inter Milan coach Simone Inzaghi said "it hurts conceding a goal like that seconds from the end" after his side went down 0-1 against Bologna. The Italian league postponed its games scheduled for Monday following the passing away of Pope Francis.

Top results: LaLiga: Sevilla 1 (Peque 12) drew with Alaves 1 (Garcia 45+2); Real Madrid 1 (Valverde 90+3) bt Athletic Bilbao 0. **Serie A:** AC Milan 0 lost to Atalanta 1 (Ederson 62).

LIVE TELECAST

IPL: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 7.30 p.m.

Premier League: SS Select 1 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 12.30 a.m. (Wednesday)

BENGALURU ROUND-UP

Centuries by Karthik and Shivam

S.U. Karthik (186) and Shivam Singh (166 n.o.) helped Jawans CC gain the first innings lead over Coles CC in their drawn KSCA Group I, Division I league match.

The scores: Coles 424/7 in 90 overs (K. Shashindra 84, Ashwin Santosh 172, K.S. Lankesh 38, Dheeraj Mohan 54, Gowtham Sagar 32, S. Ishaan 3/88, K. Gourav 3/72) drew with Jawans 426/3 in 74 overs (S.U. Karthik 186, Shivam Singh 166 n.o., Sumit Kumar 62 n.o.).

Cambridge 170 in 44 overs (Prithvi Sadanand 72, S. Punith 4/45, P. Dhruv 3/32) & 183 in 40.5 overs (Prithvi Sadanand 52, Raj Kumar 28, Clement Rajmohan 36, P. Dhruv 3/75, S. Punith 5/25) lost to Sir Syed Cricketers 339/8 in 78 overs (Atharv Malviya 105, P. Dhruv 42, Monish Reddy 58, Rahul Naik 34 n.o., Maribasava Gowda 36 n.o., Macneil Hadley Noronha 4/114).

Swastic Union (2) 353 in 89.1 overs (Hardik Raj 29, Vijaya Raj 28, Aneeshwar Gautam 79, Sujay Sateri 113, Rajvir Wadhwa 3/61, Varun Rao 4/85) drew with Bangalore Occasionals 351 in 88.2 overs (Niranjan 73, Bhuvan Raju 56, Kush Marathe 25, Kranthi Kumar 104, Suraj Ahuja 58, Nathan D'Mello 3/54).

Herons 319/9 decl. in 86 overs (U. Karan 47, Prajwal Pavan 27, Faizan Khan 97, S. Vinodh 51, Aditya Mani 31, J. Suchith 3/74, Likhit Bannur 3/61) drew with Mount Joy 220 in 57.1 overs (Akshan Rao 32, J. Suchith 26, K. Gagandeep 29, B.R. Sharath 52, Kushal Pramesh 5/39).

Social Cricketers 376 in 89.1 overs (Lochan Gowda 93, Sudhanwa Kulkarni 87, K.V. Aneesh 41, Sourab Muttur 32, Shaun Tristan Joseph 32, Shikhar Shetty 5/78, K.P. Karthikeya 3/100) drew with Vultures 208/3 in 45 overs (Srujan Nandan 41, D. Nischal 55, K.P. Karthikeya 58 n.o., R. Smaran 39 n.o.).

Swastic Union (1) 428/7 in 67.5 overs (Rohan Patil 163, Vishal Onat 29, E.J. Jasper 47, S. Rakshith 81, Anirudh Srinivas 36, Bhimrao Navale 25 n.o., B.U. Shivakumar 3/124) drew with Friends Union (1) 213 in 62.5 overs (Aarush Mehrotra 70, Shashikumar 6/84, Paras Gurbax Arya 3/77) and 165/5 in 41 overs (Kairav Reddy 70, Pranav Babu 65, Shashikumar 3/54).

BHEL EDN goes down

BHEL EDN SC lost to Railway Institute, Krishnarajapuram in KSCA Group II, Division II here on Monday.

The scores: IMS Health Analytics Services Pvt. Ltd. 134/9 in 19.5 overs (Srinivas Kempaiah 54) lost to DELL 138/8 in 19.2 overs (Vikas Doddamani 38 n.o., Bharath Pathour 3/16, Ram Prasad Dasari 3/38); BHEL EDN 161/6 in 20 overs (B.B. Sunil 68, S.N. Susheel Gowda 34, Somala Ranjith Kumar 3/38) lost to Railway Institute, Krishnarajapuram 164/5 in 19.4 overs (U.K. Akhil 76 n.o.).

KSP 185/2 in 20 overs (Santosh Gowda 39, Somashekara Murthy 38, P. Suresh 71 n.o., Madhusudan 29) bt EPF 103/8 in 20 overs (Venkata Rao Runku 27).

GTRE 152 in 18.5 overs (Gautam Kumar 26, Rajeev Kumar 33, L. Thejas 3/21, Chethan Shetty 3/15) bt Continental Automotive 125/7 in 20 overs (L. Thejas 27).

LIC 130/8 in 20 overs (G.S. Abhishek 34, S. Santosh 44, C.M. Chandrashekhar 3/11) lost to Bosch, Bangalore 134/1 in 15.2 overs (M. Sriranganatha Rao 82 n.o.).

Union Bank of India 168/8 in 20 overs (T. Vinay 53, K.P. Karthik Balaji 37 n.o., Kariyappa 3/26) lost to Hutti Gold Mines, Hutti 172/4 in 19.5 overs (M.M. Srikanth 45, Sulthan Baba 47).

BEL 206/2 in 20 overs (M.R. Girish 51 n.o., S. Amar Kumar 121) bt Triton, Mysuru 68 in 13.3 overs.

ADE 148/8 in 20 overs (Bablu Nayak 58 n.o., M. Ramdsh 3/22) bt BHEL EPD CSBD 39 in 14.5 overs.

URSC Cricket Team 160/8 in 20 overs (Rishikesh Pandy 58, Gurram Ravikanth 28 n.o.) bt ITC 115/9 in 20 overs (H.M. Naveen Kumara 31, Satyendra Kumar Singh 3/11).

Infosys 189/6 in 20 overs (V. Shabarish 25, Y.P. Pranav 29, Praveen 69 n.o.) bt Titan Company Ltd. 126 in 15.4 overs (M. Velmuruga 56).

SWR Rail Club, Bengaluru 75 in 16.1 overs lost to South Railway Inst., Mysuru 76/1 in 7.5 overs (M.B. Yogananda 33 n.o.).

Advocate Association 192/8 in 20 overs (M. Gowri Shankar 25, Afzal Khan 42, K. Shreyas Kumar 25, S. Gunashekar 29) bt Bosch, Naganathapura 89 in 16.4 overs (S.B. Rajesh 3/12, M. Gowri Shankar 3/12).

Deccan crushes Vijayanagara

FC Deccan crushed Vijayanagara 6-0 in a BDFA 'A' division football league on Monday.

The results: 'A' div.: Sree Gajanana 3 (Praveen Kumar 45, Shivakumar 52, Siddharth Srinivaslu 74) bt Jawahar Union 0; FC Deccan 6 (Nibin Anthony 45, Godwin Joy 45, 46, M. Vinay 69, Hikam Santhoi Singh 70, Prince Ichagutu 82) bt Vijayanagara 0. **'C' div.:** Young Blues Elite drew with Mahesh Ray United 1-1; Football Aura bt Shubhodaya 1-0; Bangalore Champs Academy bt Russ 8-0; RV bt Blue Diamond 3-0. **Women's 'B' div.:** Friends United bt Technico 2-0; Silicans bt Blues 4-0; Alchemy IFA drew with Kemp Junior 1-1.

Easy for Mysore Dist. 'A'

Mysore District 'A' eased past Mysore District 'B' 54-22 in the state sub-junior (under-13) basketball league for boys on Monday.

The results: Boys: Mysore District 'A' bt Mysore District 'B' 54-22; Vimanapura bt Dharwad District 'A' 63-22; MCHS bt Koramangala 48-4; Beagles bt Mandya District 30-29; JSC bt Bangalore Sporting 52-24. **Girls:** MCHS bt Hoskote 42-18; Bangalore Sporting bt Mysore District 'B' 34-7; Beagles bt Bangalore Vanguards 53-11; Vivek's bt Devanga Union 30-26.

Big win for RWFSA

RWFSA whipped Falcon Hockey Club 7-1 in the KSHA-BHA Super Division hockey league championship on Monday.

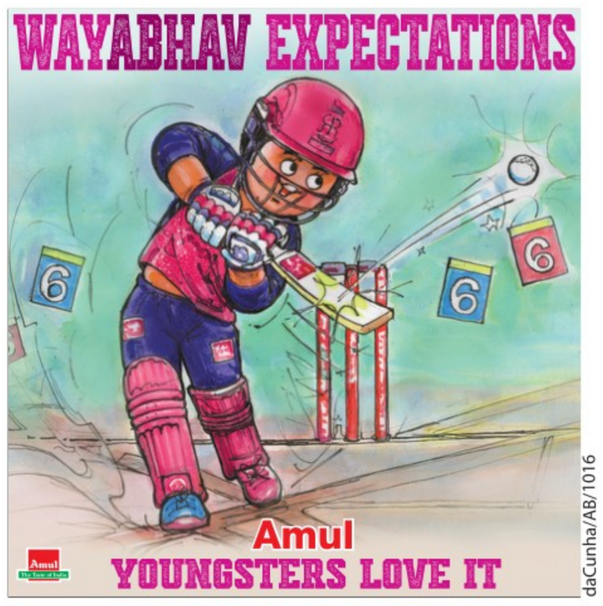
The results: Shlok bt Hindustan Friends 3-1; RWFSA bt Falcon 7-1.

Pachigalla starts with a triple crown

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

Hyderabad's Stephen Jyothi Rogers Pachigalla started his campaign in the FMSCI Indian National Drag Racing Championship 2025 (4-wheeler) with a triple crown in the premier Unrestricted class at Taneja Aerospace, Hosur, over the weekend.

The results (winners only): Round-1: PETROL – Unrestricted (N1): Stephen Jyothi Rogers Pachigalla (09.635secs); Pro-Stock K2 (1151cc – 1450cc): Narayan Swamy (15.483s); PS K3 (1451cc – 1650cc): Shaik Hussain Pasha (17.241s); PS K4 (1651cc – 2050cc): Thrishal M.S (15.545s); PS K5 (2051cc – 2550cc): Shreyas Mahendra (13.618); PS K7 (3061cc – 4002cc): Vidyaprakash Damodaran (13.351s); PS K8 (4003cc – 5100cc): K.V. Karthik (10.315s). **DIESEL - PS L4 (1651cc-2050cc):** Naveen Reddy Kesara (13.749s); PS L6 (2551cc-3060cc): Aakash Durai (12.571s). **Indian Open M1 (up to 2750cc):** Shreyas (12.963s); **Indian Open M2 (up to 4002cc):** Shreyas (13.259s); **Indian Open M3 (Unlimited):** Yajur Miglani (10.656s).
Round-2: PETROL – Unrestricted (N1): Pachigalla (08.948s). **PS K2 (1151cc – 1450cc):** Narayan Swamy (14.880s). **PS K3 (1451cc – 1650cc):** Vinay S.M. (15.036s). **PS K4 (1651cc – 2050cc):** M.S. Thrishal (15.790s); **PS K5 (2051cc – 2550cc):** Vijay Raju (13.846s). **PS K7 (3061cc – 4002cc):** Vidyaprakash (13.830s); **PS K8 (4003cc – 5100cc):** Karthik K.V. (10.230).
DIESEL – PS L4 (1651cc-2050cc): Naveen Reddy Kesara (13.624s); **PS L6 (2551cc-3060cc):** Aakash Durai (12.415). **Indian Open M1 (up to 2750cc):** Vijay Raju (14.195s); **Indian Open M2 (up to 4002cc):** Vidyaprakash (13.236s); **Indian Open M3 (Unlimited):** Pachigalla (08.955s).



daCunha/AB/1016

SNAPSHOTS

Stars set to light up the Neeraj Chopra Classic

NEW DELHI: Some of the biggest names in world javelin including two-time world champion Anderson Peters, current World leader Curtis Thompson, 2016 Olympic champion Thomas Rohler and former world champion Julius Yego will be in action at the Neeraj Chopra Classic at the Sree Kanteerava Stadium in Bengaluru on May 24.

The event, originally scheduled to be held at Panchkula, was forced to be shifted due to technical issues including minimum lighting requirements from World Athletics and international broadcasters. The biggest draw, however, will remain the man after whom it is named - Neeraj Chopra.

"It was a long-held dream. Whenever I went abroad to participate, I saw events and how people came to support athletes and enjoy and thought if we could do something similar in India," Neeraj said.

Pakistan's Arshad Nadeem has also been invited.

— Uthra Ganesan

Arya-Rudrankksh duo wins silver medal

Arya Borse and Rudrankksh Patil lost 11-17 to the Norway team of Jeanette Duestad and Jon-Hermann Hegg in the mixed air rifle gold medal match in the World Cup on Sunday. India stayed third in the medals table with two gold, three silver and a bronze.

The results: Mixed air rifle: 1. Norway (Jeanette Duestad, Jon-Hermann Hegg) 17 (632.6; 2. India (Arya Borse, Rudrankksh Patil) 11 (632.5); 3. China (Wang Zifei, Song Buhan) 16 (632.0); 4. China-2(Du Yuchen, Fang Shangjian) 4 (630.5); 7. India-2 (Narmada Nithin, Arjun Babuta) 630.0. **Trap: Men:** 1. William Hinton (USA) 47 (123); 2. Mauro De Filippis (Ita) 42 (123); 3. Giovanni Cernogoraz (Cro) 34 (122); 15. Prithviraj Tondaiman 117; 17. Lakshay Sheoran 117; 20. Zoravar Singh Sandhu 116. **Women:** 1. Silvana Stanco (Ita) 45 (118); 2. Mar Magrina (Esp) 44 (115); 3. Adriana Olivia (Gua) 33 (116); 7. Pragati Dubey 113; 13. Bhavya Tripathi 110; 19. Neeru 105.

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Volkswagen Palace Cross - 9686601249, 9900064401.

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